THE

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In the place of decorations generally of little use or value, it is our wish occasionally to present our Readers with some really useful article.—We accordingly, this month, give the Pocket Companion of the Royal Humane Society of London, containing directions for recovering suspended animation, in such an abridged form, as to be suitable to carry in the pocket to have ready on any sudden emergency, as a fatal delay may sometimes take place, by having the summary directions to look for when accidents happen. This pocket companion is calculated to be bound up with the Magazine, or to be kept in the pocket. It affords us much satisfaction to state that the Royal Humane Society of London, since the beginning of this year have paid the rewards of the society in more than one hundred cases, most of which were successful, and have been the means of affording comfort to many families.

Since the last meeting of the Managers of the Humane Society, several remarkably successful cases have occurred, and the claimants were satisfactorily rewarded.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

VISIT TO ENGLAND,
In the Summer of 1801.

WE took ship from Dublin in the Camden, Captain Draper, the 5th of May at seven o'clock P. M. It was doubtful that we could get out for want of wind, all nature in this vernal season of delight seeming hushed into one general harmony. We pushed out however to catch the expiring gales, which hoary Neptune has in reserve to preserve by motion the salubrity of his watery domain: our ship was small, light and manageable, and our sailors expert at their marine tactics. A breeze rising from the W, about night-fall, watted us along; the larger ships on our line we soon distanced and lost sight of, arriving at Holyhead after 20 hours at sea.

Landing, the first imposition was from the custom-house officers; two shillings paid to one man for a printed license to authorize another to search our portmanteaus, who had two shillings for not tumbling our clothes. Then came porters of several orders, who delivered our things from the ship to the custom-house, thence to the inn, and lastly into our coach, all to pay. Jackson's inn is neat and clean. We are struck with the good countenances of the children and people generally, and could not help drawing them into contrast with some of our own poor people, lowered on the scale of existence by complication of oppression and imposture. Taking tea here, we drove to Bangor, arriving at the ferry between ten and eleven at night. Here we were entertained with the luminous electric appearance of the water; the oars as they worked the boat, casting up waves of liquid fire. We found here a home in an inn, kept with that care and exactness that is congenial to the soil, a sweet musician entering, on his harp—

Untwisted all the strings that tie
The hidden soul of harmony—

As I ascended the hill which on this side commands the bay, the ferry, the hills, the romantic and umbrageous scenery of the Isle of Anglesea, I said to myself, is not the human mind an instrument of music, which in the hand of the mighty master utters transporting harmony? yet are not the strings often discordant? But has not he made the instrument, whose potent and charming hand can rule the strings, can attune them, can make the whole "*concordia discors*" conducive

to the general ends of creation? What a foul picture does the world of rational existence exhibit, not submitting to be tempered and harmonized! Breakfasted at this charming place, and passed on to Conway over the tremendously awful pass of Penmanmaur, and by the picturesque town of Abber, situate amidst steep and what to us seemed inaccessible recesses of the mountain side: at noon arrived at Conway, and here within these walls of monastic druidic antiquity we dined; my companion J. B. gratified with objects of magnificent nature and the gay and lively colouring of art. I own to prejudices now obliterated by the honesty apparent in all faces, and the amiable simplicity and beauty of the female creation. Hence we took the road to Shrewsberry, arriving at five P.M. at Llanrwst: the view of rock and mountain not so bold as the morning scenes presented, but opening at intervals some very pleasant prospects on the sloping eminences. We are struck with the ingenuity of man to make the rough rock habitable, presenting gay scenery of happy abodes hung high (shall I say) out of the reach of care. Nature has richly adorned this country; Floreal embellishing, and the rivalship of human art lending every aid to bring nature's plan to perfection. At Llanrwst we are again saluted with the sound of the Welch Harp. Is there some natural accord between melody and the human heart, which causes that these people are not palled by the incessant repetition? Is it that the mild music connects in natural association with the romantic scenery of nature, which is incessantly presented to the Welch people, and thus contributes to form and give happy permanence to their character? We took tea at Kennioge, a single house, the country round it barren of improvement; every where else our evening objects had an astonishing grandeur. The road on this side Llanrwst took us up an exceedingly high and steep mountain, from whence across some very lively scenes the eye is carried many miles to the Snowden mountains that present hideous asperities in the great scale of nature. Approaching Corwen late at night to lodge, our road ran us on the verge of a tremendous steep called Glyndiffus, a low wall kindly interposing to prevent our being dashed along in the rude confusion of rocks and precipices. We regretted that the scanty light afforded so little opportunity of surveying this magnificent scenery, it is a rock deeply indented by the torrents of many ages to a great depth, huge piles of rock standing high above the awful spectacle, a bridge of tremendous height being thrown across from rock to rock. Had the moon favoured, or an addition of torrent, which other seasons of the year afford, no scene could be better calculated to impress with sublime sensations. The simplicity of Corwen, built among the rocks, is truly picturesque: the church yard stands in the midst of the town, the living seem to associate with the dead, the way connecting one cottage to another, lying across this rotten repository. I peeped into the church: there, in characters truly loyal, are gorgeously displayed the king's arms, and beside it a list of names of those, who, at some suffering time, contributed to relieve the necessitous. Hard by, is a structure erected, as the inscription in front declares, to accommodate six widows of clergymen of the church of England. At 5 in the morning, mounting a rock, I went to meet the early acclamation of the birds, pouring forth their morning anthem. A fine river with winding course refreshes a cultivated valley; the mountain side, as far as wild nature can be forced to yield to the operations of industry, presenting marks of similar cultivation.

In the morning, 11th, we set forward for the vale of Llangollen, full of expectation. The scenery levels down, Nature, tamer in her operations, not so extravagant, or terribly bold. These views invite calmly to contemplate and dwell on. Our road was on the side of a mountain; the left hand view, through which the river Dee wanders, affords richly glowing scenery, perhaps unrivalled in these kingdoms for extent, variety, and gratifying exhibition. I have winded round the sides of bold Ulleswater, the umbrageous skirts of Conistone, the gay and laughing scenery of Winandermere lake, whose tufted is-

lands crown its peaceful bosom; but the vale of Llangollen in Denbighshire, bears the palm for the diversity of ravishing delights. Its charm baffles the pall of satiety, by the perpetual change presented to the imagination. At a distance were pointed out to me two Irish ladies, wandering in the vale, who have preferred to pass their lives in this sequestered spot, in the enjoyment of mutual friendship. The family name of these votaries to simple pleasures, are Butler and Ponsonby. At two, we arrived at Oswestry, passing Chirk, a town advantaged by a new canal, whose prodigious aqueducts we halted to admire. We severally remarked not to have seen a soldier or a beggar, after travelling 100 miles, a striking circumstance to an Irishman. The soldier is a machine invented by aristocracy, to perpetuate the existence of that inequality, which it arrogates to the extinction of the happiness of society, and a machine which it has artfully contrived, that the victims of this inequality, should furnish and exercise against themselves. In the evening to Shrewsbury, 18 miles, the country under good cultivation. This is a great town, 2 miles in extent, the houses lofty, and thick set. Our driver took us to the Talbot, where we were received with gracious smiles of a courteous hostess: indications of civilized life. Farewell, dear Wales! where Nature reigns triumphant; the country diversified with endless variety, the people universally and uniformly the same. They seem to me to be cast into one mould of unaffected simplicity, even in their countenances wearing a singular sameness: my companion remarked the same. Is it that the Welch have preserved their aboriginal character without teint, amidst the fortifications and ramparts, which Nature hath in favour drawn around them, against the evils of polished society; while the English mixed and blended with all the world, and ever varying their local diversities, throw out an infinite variety of character? I leave this topic to be discussed by some possessed of happier leisure and more intimate acquaintance with the human character, and haste to describe the lovely scenes of Shrewsbury. We arrived here on Sunday evening: the genteel part of the town were gone to their favourite evening haunts; I. B. and I followed. A very stately modern edifice in honour of St. Chad, stands high for publick devotion; the expense, £27,000, the parish taxed for the interest. Between this and the river, and in my idea, better suited to devotion, a park slopes down containing 10 or 12 acres, called the Quarries, intersected with spacious walks, planted on each side with large spreading umbrageous limes, that meet overhead in friendly association, and form a very interesting summer evening walk: this is skirted by the Severn. A band of music here on the bank, gratifies the multitude, who appear with gay and lovely countenances, to take pleasure in mutual enjoyment. It is a pleasurable object to behold a great number apparently happy, and though my first impression of the difference between simple and artificial life still followed me, yet do I give these sons and daughters of polished society, credit for a large share of that philanthropy which appeared in their countenances. Next day we devote to take a view of Shrewsbury. The Severn encircles the town, forming a peninsula; the slopes on its flowery sides decorate with natural and cultivated embellishment, and raise the gratified spectator to a view of these bold and interesting objects. Nothing graces the improvements of cultivation equal to the stately movement of the majestic river, which seems with lingering course to stop to admire its own creation. The soil is a red earth, of which they make brick. A fine grit rock also in the neighbourhood, which is easily cut, and hardens in the air, contributes to facilitate the views of architecture. Stately buildings mingle amongst the foliage which this same red earth yields in abundance, with rich luxuriance of meadow and pasture ground. Lead, iron, and coal, bring their grateful tribute also in abundance, to add to the comforts and conveniences of human life, and forward the gay designs of English elegance. The Salopians abound in use-

ful institutions, as schools, poor-houses, and hospitals, which are under good regulation. Yet notwithstanding there was so much to admire, and so kind a disposition in my friend, I. B. and me to be gratified, something presented to our observation this evening which hurt our feelings, as we could plead a guiltiness of being involved in the following description. It is a publick warning at the entrance of the town; as follows,

Caution to Vagrants.

Notice is hereby given that all vagrants found wandering in the town or liberties of Shrewsbury, will be immediately apprehended, severely whipped, and sent to the house of correction to hard labour:

By order of the Mayor,

LOXDALE, town clerk.

My companion and I could not help looking at one another: we were certainly strollers, perhaps vagrants, and so are many who might become victims of this inhospitable denunciation, and who, perhaps, could not plead worthier cause for wandering than ourselves: The case is, this regulation is levelled against the lower orders of society, consequent to the poor laws, which are framed by the minions of fortune. with hearts steeled to unkindness towards their unprivileged brethren. Man in his corporate character, as a member of society, whether religious or political, is often intolerant and severe.

But it would be unjust to the proud Salopians, if I did not mention that in our progress we found this publick notice pretty general through England.

Many proofs of civility and philanthropy we met with here. The 14th we passed on through Watling-street, Sheffnal, Wolverhampton, Bilston, Wednesbury to Birmingham: the country all alive, it seemed like one continual town with the interruption of delightful rural retreats from Salop to Birmingham, 44 miles. The soil, as we proceeded, turned from red to black, and the enormous coal and iron works every where presented the prodigious force of steam-engines, gulfs of liquid fire, ponds of boiling water, in the mingled exhibition of art and elegance. The approach to Wolverhampton is through an assemblage of gardens, which present themselves all at once on the side of the hill, on whose summit stands the town. The Lion-inn seems to terminate this beautiful sloping avenue, and for taste and convenience exceeds any thing I had yet seen.

In the midst of Birmingham is seen, as in all the towns of England, the church encircled by the tombs, the living familiarly associating with the dead: and walking abroad amongst the tombs for recreation. Will it be said that it is profitable then to become familiar with mortality, towards which we are hourly hastening? I question if this familiarity strengthen our moral sentiment? I believe that what is intended to convey an awful impression, ought not to be presented too often.

We passed on through happy improvements of highly cultivated soil, to Stratford-on-Avon, the birth-place of our English bard of high renown. A swan sailing with majestic port on the river, reminded me of poetic Mincius and of Garrick's address;

Flow on silver Avon! with songs ever flow!
Be the swans on thy bosom still whiter than snow!
Ever full be thy stream! like his name may it spread,
And the turf ever hallow'd, that pillow'd his head.

Tracing the vestiges of nature's darling, we dined at Shipston-on-Stour. At six, took tea at Woodstock; here we were shown the spot where the bower stood, the scene of Henry's loves with fair Rosamond; bad theme, but is it much worse than that which for the last century, the vast pile erected here (Blenheim) is made the memorial of, the victories of Marlborough? A magnificent entrance of heavy architecture leads to a lawn, and sweet enclosures of wood and water, cultivated hills and dales of about 2000 acres. Here is erected a large pile of Moorish style. We viewed at distance, having no inclination to bestow marks of respect on a structure, which perpetuates the memory of scenes, that sunder the brotherly affections, by which the family of mankind ought to be united. Blenheim! monument of the misery,

wickedness and folly of the human species! How long shall this earth exhibit melancholy triumphs on account of the destruction of the human race! Man, created to be the glory of the works of God, the top-stone of the fabric of his glowing architecture, how has he debased himself below the lowest in creation, by planning designs of mutual destruction, and glorying in his disgrace. Woodstock is 8 miles from Oxford, the seat of science, where we arrived to lodge. The soil of the ground slaty, a free-stone earth and light surface, yet in proportion to well-directed culture. Vast plantations of beans for many acres in extent; very fine elms and pasture grounds evincing the benign ductility of the soil. From our elegant inn, the Sun, my companion and I sallied out to view the high place of boasted human learning. It is astonishing what piles of old monkish superstition are here exhibited in all the darkness of barbaric and Gothic magnificence. Kings, and prelates, and popes, and monks, and mitres, installed in niches all along the walls on the out and inside of these sullen towers, the bulwarks and repositories of human learning. Returning to our inn, we are consoled by the music of H. B's. voice, flowing from an illuminated mind. A skilful hand in the hall awaked the dormant strings of a harp, a charm which had not before saluted our ear, nor wrapped the prisoned soul in Elysium, since our feet were turned from happy Wales; and under the influence of this excellent composer of delicious harmony, I drew out my last two pages.

14th, we bid adieu to imposing Oxford, imposing I say, because of the pride, and pageantry, and emptiness of human plausibilities and pretences; and imposing for very heavy charges at our inn, where every dish and spoon became an article of expense with an application to our pockets. We passed to Tetworth, to breakfast, through the uninclosed corn fields; barley still sowing; we observed the English at great charge for horses in most of their business; no oxen any where in the plough. A few miles from Oxford, our road, ascending a very high chalk hill, afforded us a view from the commanding eminence of as gay a scene of extensive cultivation as imagination can conceive. The inn at Tetsworth for neatness challenges the powers of description: the immediate elegancies and remote views of luxurious vegetation, emulously pouring on the curious eye. The scenes about West and High Wiccomb, are of this kind, except, that high towering buildings present the idea of aristocratic grandeur, which hurt the feelings, because here the charities do not commonly find a home. Approaching Beaconsfield, I looked out for the habitation, once informed by Edmund Burke, dear to the muses, and to the genius of philanthropy: alas! that a perverted patriotism should in the evening cast a shade over his exalted character, to tarnish his morning and mid-day lustre! Burke is no more; his widow inhabits Butler's court, for so is called the elegant mansion near Beaconsfield where Burke resided, formerly the residence of Waller the poet, or at least contiguous to it. I recal in retrospect the time when I accompanied Burke from his house in the country to London, a few years ago. A family friendship allowed me the privilege of spending a few days with him at his country house. As we passed through Uxbridge (where I now write) the sublime man took me to see a cedar of Lebanon, whose luxuriant shade and towering height, were congenial to his soul, and drew from him the words of Ezekiel or other favourite Oriental bard, in a style suitable to the occasion and to the man. The cedar I am told was blown down in a storm—Burke too has fallen in the tempest of the time—fallen from what height! The virgin white of pure patriotism once tarnished, resembles the loss of chastity and innocence.

In vain with tears the loss he may deplore,
In vain look back to what he was before!
He sets like stars that fall to rise no more.

We now set forward to London, the vortex of impurities, where such exquisite genius, so much beauty, so much truth, as the English nation generates by nature, are drawn in, and overwhelmed. At Greenwich, a

noble pile of building for the accommodation of the wounded man-of-war seamen we drew melancholy reflections on the perfection of human misery—war! Here were exhibited old men without legs, and other victims of mutilation and outrage, offered up to the demon of war. Here the votaries of patriotism, demonstrating their tutelary god. Here the infatuated victims of mistaken loyalty, that imagined virtue, to carry which to perfection you must abandon all that in life is dear to man, wife, children, the natural affections, and all the charities which can make country, or any peculiar spot of ground dear to the affections. At Blenheim is erected the temple to the grim idol of war and victory; the vainglorious boast is consummated at Greenwich, where human victims are immolated by a lingering death.—Could one separate the stately buildings of Greenwich from the occasion of their erection, we might admire the paintings on the ceiling and walls of the hall. The founders, William and Mary, are represented in the centre, in their appropriate regalia, the thrones and diadem of despotism under their feet; this in allusion to controlling the balance of power in Europe, and checking the ambition of Lewis XIV. Apollo in his glowing car, stands conspicuous amidst the signs of the zodiac, the figures of which encircle the ceiling without confusion, and in suitable attitude and proportion; the corners are ornamented with emblematic figures of the seasons and the various stages of life, also of those men who were supposed to have benefited their country in arts or arms, or contributed to bring the sciences to perfection.—This whole assemblage of high wrought figures, are all in character, and mutual dependance and relation to each other, without crouding or confusion; that it might be said the disposition was equal to the workmanship.—Beyond the hall is a saloon, whose walls bear emblematic devices of the four quarters of the world; all with reference to the ostentatious pride of England. The muse of painting here discovers her deceptive talent by an imitation of fluted columns and windows. The hostess at our inn by her high charges, 9*d.* for six potatoes, made us conclude that she had studied at Oxford. The tide coming in, we ascended the Thames in our hired boat, and passing under London bridge, but not with the same velocity that we had shot down, we landed near Westminster-hall. Here I had the pleasure of contemplating the mouldering pillars of the abbey. St. Margaret's chapel hard by is getting repair, but the venerable abbey may be suffered to sink into a ruin proportionate to its vastness, and the high emblazoned national pride and human aggrandizement, of which it is the fit and convenient repository. Here among the tombs;

hic jacet gloria mundi!

Here are erected monuments to the disturbers of the peace of society, as well as to many who have benefited or embellished it. Here, amidst rottenness and death, is the boast of high achievement; the trophies of victory are hung in that other high place Paul's cathedral; the victors and heroes are here laid low amongst the dead. But why this grumbling? Turn we from the dead to converse with the living—and allowing mankind their feelings and prejudices, many of which the state of society necessarily imposes, and which men can no more divest themselves of than the Ethiopean can change his skin—I own to an impression of kindness, as I walked along the streets of London, and read the countenances of those I met. But life is so abundant, the town swarming with inhabitants, and the business of life carries them so rapidly along, and so occupies the attention, that you cannot expect to meet with any subjects for contemplation of this kind.

I stepped into Lloyd's at the Exchange: What a scene of busy life! here is every one occupied with his own speculation! The news of the day, however disastrous, seeming to claim little attention, except so far as it interfered with the money system. The love of gain,

"The master passion of the breast,
"Like Aaron's serpent, swallows up the rest."

At this time Egypt was the scene of conflict between the adverse political parties. We left London at 5 P. M. the 19th, and arrived in Dublin, at 10 A. M. the 22d, being two days and three nights on the way. The mail-coach takes four; one of our companions soon went to sleep; the other was a young officer of marines just returned from Malta: his brother stood at the coach door, and as we waited for departure, they talked of the war, and of the fate of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, in Egypt, regretting that he had not served his country longer. This is the common topic: young fellows who have not an atom of true patriotism, nor understand the sentiment, having all their affections and passions measured by selfish gratifications, can thus swagger and talk off the rounds of hackneyed conversation, while the country bleeds at every vein to support a ruinous war. In progress our sleepy companion, having taken his nap, brightened up, and discovered himself a man truly capable of an exalted sentiment, constituting him an amiable companion on the way. We lost him at Litchfield, near which place he lives; the officer went with us to Chester. In about forty-six hours, by unremitting travelling, we went from London to the Head: the roads remarkably good, carriages easy, and the horses not oppressed; the fine race of this valuable species in England having no symptom of abuse; twenty-five minutes allowed for meals. We generally flew a mile in six minutes. On board ship my reflections brought me to the view of misery in its completest form—a slave ship. The Africans are forced away against their will from home, and most tender connections. I am returning home with all my will, inclinations and warmest affections. The Africans are cruelly used, and packed up in abominable holds and vile imprisonment, as loathsome as human nature can conceive, to aggravate the circumstances of slavery. My situation, so different, ought therefore to reconcile me to the narrow but temporary restraints of a ship. On my return to Dublin and friends dearly loved, I am abundantly gratified, after two weeks absence.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

WHATEVER opinion may be entertained of the ingenious theories of Dr. Darwin, as to their being capable of demonstration in all cases, he is pre-eminently entitled to the merit of having both practically and theoretically introduced sobriety in an increased degree, among the higher classes of society, in the midland counties of England.

In his Zoonomia, he points out the dangers of taking too large quantities of alcohol, even when the quantity taken, may not produce intoxication, and shows the various and diversified danger of habitually indulging in the free use of beer, wine, and ardent spirits. According to his system an error in the quantity of beer or wine leads to gout, while an excess in ardent spirits is fatally characterized by dropsy, and the dreadful train of complaints arising from a diseased liver. What he recommended in his book, he carried into his practice, as a physician in his advice to his patients, and in the regulation of his own conduct, in the circle of a widely extended acquaintance. His example and precepts had a most powerful effect in causing sobriety, and even a comparative degree of abstemiousness, to become fashionable. I wish physicians in this country would set a similar example, and enforce similar precepts. I am convinced that Dr. Darwin introduced many to health, and a consequent increase of comfort by producing a conviction that a much less portion of alcohol in whatever shape is necessary to the full enjoyment of health. I am inclined to think that some are in the practice of habitually taking more wine or other strong drink from the mistaken notion that a pretty large portion of stimulus is necessary to good health. In convivial companies many drink from fashion, and to be accommodated to the general practice: Dr. Darwin did much to relieve from "custom's ideot sway," in these instances among his companions and I wish to see the influence of his writings in this respect more generally diffused.

NON MEDICUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A CORRESPONDENT, in a former number of your Magazine, inquired why culinary, or room fires, were apt to burn less brightly, and to be extinguished from the action of the sun's rays on them? A writer in a subsequent number expressed his opinion, that the fact was not correct. On lately reading Notes on the West Indies, by Dr. Pinkard, an ingenious and interesting work, I met with the following account. The reasoning on the phenomenon of light appeared to me satisfactory. I recommend it to your Correspondents, and to such of your readers as may be interested in such inquiries, and without further comment I subjoin the extract giving an account of the appearance of a burning wood on the coast of Demerara, in South America.

"As we returned in the evening, we witnessed a very grand and brilliant scene, from the burning of part of the forest, in order to clear an estate for cultivation.

"The trees were consuming with great rapidity, and from the fire increasing in brightness as the evening closed in, it formed a most splendid and imposing spectacle. The Major observed to us, that this improvement of the picture was not the mere effect of viewing it through the surrounding darkness, it being a fact very generally known in this country, that when any part of the woods are set on fire, they burn with greater rapidity during the night than in the day-time. From the greater strength of the breeze throughout the day, this might seem improbable; but that fires do burn weaker in strong light, is a fact not unknown to the lowest kitchen maid, who in summer closes the shutters (as she says) to keep the sun from putting out the fire. Still it cannot be considered that it is the particular property of the sun to prevent bodies from burning. Perhaps your chemical reading will furnish you with an explanation of the fact, from the known tendency of light to preserve oxygen in its gaseous state, and to prevent the decomposition of the atmospheric air, which is so essential to combustion. The fire appeared very beautiful, and might be seen to the distance of many miles. It arrested our attention for a considerable time, and we contemplated it as an object of grandeur and novelty."

A GLEANER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. lord lieutenant general and general governor of Ireland.

The second Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the state of all Schools on public or charitable foundations, in Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE the undersigned Commissioners for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purpose of education, and into the state and condition of all schools on public and charitable foundations in Ireland, beg leave to report to your grace the result of our inquiries into the present state of the schools of Navan and Ballyroan, of private foundation.

The schools of Navan and Ballyroan were founded by Alderman John Preston of the city of Dublin, who in the year one thousand six hundred and eighty-six, executed a deed, conveying the lands of Cappaloughlin in the Queen's county, containing about seven hundred and ninety acres, and which he then estimated at about eighty pounds per annum, to certain persons, their heirs and assigns for ever, in trust, to pay a schoolmaster of the Protestant religion, resident and living in the town of Navan in the county of Meath, the yearly sum of thirty-five pounds; and also to pay a like schoolmaster, resident and living in the town of Ballyroan in the Queen's county, the yearly sum of twenty-five pounds; and also to pay the sum of twenty pounds yearly to the hospital of king Charles the 2d. in Oxmantown, Dublin; the nomination of the said schoolmasters to be in his eldest son, and his heirs male, and the trustees and their heirs, or the major part of them for ever; and in case of the rents of the said lands increasing, the overplus to be disposed of, by the same persons or the major part of them, for the convenience of the said schools, or such

other pious uses as the same persons, or the major part of them, shall from time to time appoint.

It appears that the lands belonging to this endowment were let in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, under an order of the court of chancery, for twenty-one years, at four hundred and thirty-one pounds eight shillings and nine pence halfpenny, per annum; and that the disbursements for each school, as settled in the year 1776 by a decree of the then chancellor, Lord Lifford, were as follows:

FOR NAVAN SCHOOL.

Salary to the master	105	0	0
Ditto to the usher	40	0	0
Ditto to a writing-master . .	15	0	0
Rent of school-house	38	10	0
Premiums	4	11	0
	£203	1	0

FOR BALLYROAN SCHOOL.

Salary to the master	75	0	0
Ditto to the usher	35	0	0
Ditto to a writing-master . .	15	0	0
Rent of house*	11	0	0
Premiums	4	11	0
	£140	11	0

By referring to documents laid before the former Commissioners for inquiring into the state of schools in Ireland, it appears, that a Mr. Jones had been appointed agent and receiver of the rents of the lands about the year 1764, that in the year 1765 the lands had been let for six hundred and ninety-two pounds seventeen shillings and six pence; but that previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, they had fallen to so low a rent as three hundred and eighty-three pounds sixteen shillings and eight pence: and in the year 1784 they were set by a master in chancery for two hundred and eleven pounds per annum, which lease was broke the same year by the chancellor.

No increase appears to have been made before the year 1776 to the allowances of the masters, and a considerable saving was reported by the agent to have accrued, of which eight hundred and seventy pounds had been put to interest, as he alleged, on good security. But this sum, together with the further savings from the year 1784 to 1793 (when Mr. Jones was removed, on an application from Mr. Preston to the then chancellor Lord Clare) and a sum of above two thousand pounds of arrears of rent, and other losses by tenants, has been irrecoverably lost to the charity, Mr. Jones having since his removal died insolvent, and without any property that could be attached. It further appears that upwards of two thousand eight hundred pounds of the funds of this charity had been consumed in law expenses, incurred by suits in chancery concerning the right of appointing to the schools. The affairs of this charity are still before that court, where it is a perpetual cause, but not now attended with any expense, except on settling the accounts, which is now done annually by the present agent, M. L. M'Causland, esq. and, as he states, at a very trifling cost.

The lease of the school lands made in one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, having expired in one thousand eight hundred and five, the lands were new set by order of the court, from May, one thousand eight hundred and six, to the highest bidder, for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of fourteen hundred and sixty-five pounds fifteen shillings. No new application of this great increase of income has yet been made; a balance of four hundred and thirty-one pounds fourteen shillings and one penny being stated by the present agent to have been due to his father, the late receiver, at the expiration of the former lease, for money paid by him in advance on account of the salaries of the masters, and other expenses of the schools; this balance it appears would be paid off by the first half-year's rents, due in November last, which had not yet been received. From that time there will be an annual surplus of nearly one thousand pounds.

NAVAN SCHOOL.

It appears that the reverend Joseph Preston was appointed master of this School in March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, by his brother (now Lord Tara) and Lord Ludlow. He held the appointment till within a month of the time of his examination before the Commissioners, but never

* This is now increased to *l.*28 8 9.

discharged the duties of it in person. His usher, the reverend Mr. Toomey, has been the ostensible master, and has resided in the school-house since the year 1794; he has regularly received the usher's salary of £40 per annum, and for the last year has also received the writing-master's salary of £15, there being no boys at the school, as he states, who learn to write. He has only five scholars, all Protestants, and never had more than seven. The school-house is not capable of accommodating boarders, and is in but indifferent repair. It appears from the evidence of the reverend Doctor Beaufort, that the corporation of Navan in the year 1776 made a grant under their seal of thirty acres of the commons of Navan to the school, on which it was proposed, that a school-house should be erected out of the savings of the endowment: the loss of those savings, and the other instances of misconduct and mismanagement of the funds, may well account for this grant never having been actually fulfilled and being still withheld. Since the resignation of Mr. Preston, the reverend Francis D. Hamilton was appointed master by Lord Tara, on the 30th June 1807. It does not appear to us, that he either intends to discharge the duty of the school in person, or has ever been engaged in such a duty; nor indeed in its present state, is there *any* employment for him, or *sufficient* for the usher, who appears to us to be both willing and able to instruct a greater number than have ever been under his tuition. We are of opinion, notwithstanding, that an effective classical school might be established at Navan, and would be highly advantageous, if the grant of land by the corporation were carried into effect; if the surplus of the new appropriation to be made of the endowment were to accumulate as a fund for building thereon, and a master properly qualified placed at the head of the establishment. But whether these measures should be found practicable or not, it appears to us that a respectable English school should be immediately established, under a master with a liberal salary, who should be capable of teaching mercantile, arithmetic, geography, and other useful branches of education for the middling classes, and should be obliged to teach the poorer children at very low prices, as the reason stated for there being no writing scholars at present in the school, was, that they could be taught for less, elsewhere, viz. in a Catholic seminary.

BALLYROAN SCHOOL.

The present master of Ballyroan school is the reverend Joseph Preston, who was appointed to it in July 1794, by his brother, now Lord Tara. He has never discharged the duty of the school himself, any more than his predecessor, a Mr. Hood. An usher employed by the latter, kept the school, and was continued by Mr. Preston. Upon his death, about two years ago, no new usher was appointed, but the school was kept by the writing-master, who appears to have received the usher's salary, but to have been wholly unqualified for the office. Another usher, Mr. Arthur Hutchinson, has been lately appointed, whom we have examined, and find to have been employed as a classical teacher in other schools, and believe to be moderately well qualified; he is to receive the salary as usher, of £35, and the profits of the children's tuition. The number at present in the school is stated to be about fifty, the greater part Roman Catholics, of whom eleven are learning Latin. The rate of tuition depends on the circumstances of their parents; the highest is half a guinea per quarter, the lowest half a crown: but there are seven or eight who are taught *gratis*. The writing-master is stated to teach accompts, mensuration, and other branches of mathematics; the usher states that he reads prayers every morning to the Protestant scholars, and teaches them Dr. Man's catechism. Mr. Preston has visited the school five or six times since his (the usher's) appointment, and supplied the children with books. The rent of the school-house, which is tolerably large, but thatched, is *l.*28 8 9, and is paid with the taxes, out of the funds of the charity.

We need not observe to your grace on the shameful abuses in these two establishments; which, however they

may have occasionally been inquired into, and in some instances corrected by the court of chancery, appear to us to require a more efficient and particular superintendance. The masters salary for both schools, amounting to 180*l.* per annum, has been received for thirteen years by a gentleman who never taught a single scholar in either; and though there is no reason to apprehend any mismanagement of the funds by the present agent, and though the last lettings of the lands appears to have been conducted with proper attention, we are of opinion that the present situation of the concerns of this charity, under the direction of the court of chancery (before which they were first brought by an information filed in the year 1735, and in which court they are still, as already stated, a perpetual cause) is not favourable to an active and sufficient controul over the conduct either of the agent or the masters, and other persons employed in the schools.

Council Cham. July 23, 1807.

(Signed) W. ARMAGH. (L.S.)
GEO. HALL PROVOST. (L.S.)
JAS. VERSCHOYLE. Dean of St. Patrick's (L.S.)
JAS. WHITELAW. (L.S.)
WILLIAM DISNEY. (L.S.)
R. L. EDGEWORTH. (L.S.)

(A correct copy.)

J. CORNEILLE, Sec. to the Commissioners.

To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, lord lieutenant general and general governor of Ireland, &c.

The third Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the state of all Schools on public or charitable foundations in Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE the undersigned commissioners for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools on public and charitable foundations in Ireland, have thought it necessary to prefix to our report upon the present state of "the *Protestant charter schools*," some account of the origin, object, and progress of those schools, as well as of their conduct and management, which we therefore beg leave to submit to your grace in the following statement:

The charter for establishing Protestant schools in Ireland, was granted by his late Majesty, George the second, in the year 1733, on the petition of the principal nobility, clergy and gentry of Ireland, setting forth the gross ignorance, disaffection and want of civilization that prevailed among the Popish inhabitants, who in the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, were stated as far exceeding the Protestants in number; and praying the incorporation of a society for establishing and maintaining a sufficient number of English Protestant schools in proper situations, as one of the most effectual means of converting and civilizing the Irish natives; and in which the children of the poor might be instructed *gratis* in the English tongue, and the fundamental principles of true religion and loyalty. The charter, after reciting the above particulars, proceeds to nominate and appoint the persons who are to compose a society incorporated for erecting maintaining and supporting, in such places as they shall judge to be most convenient and necessary, such and so many English Protestant schools as they shall think proper, with power to appoint fit persons to be schoolmasters and school-mistresses of the same, who shall instruct the children of the Popish and other poor natives in the English tongue, in the principles of the Protestant religion, in reading, writing and arithmetic, and such other parts of learning as to the society shall seem meet, and bring them up in virtue and industry, and cause them to be instructed in husbandry and housewifery, or in trades or manufactures, or other manual occupations; for which the society are to provide them with all necessary utensils and materials, as also with bibles and common prayer books, and other proper books, and to give them encouragements by providing clothes, diet, and lodging, for such of them as to the society shall seem meet, until they shall judge them fit to be put out to trades or services, or other employments; and to allow the masters and mistresses such yearly wages or

society was enabled to erect fourteen new schools in the next three years. And in 1751 the Duke of Dorset, then again lord lieutenant, having recommended the charter schools in his speech on the opening of the session of parliament, the sum of five thousand pounds was granted to the society on a petition of the House of Commons to his Majesty; in consequence of which, seven additional schools were established in the three following years. From that time to the present, the society have continued to receive parliamentary grants every session, which indeed became necessary from the great increase of their establishments. The sums granted have usually varied with the exigencies of the society; in the first ten years, the average of them amounted to about three thousand five hundred pounds per annum; in the next ten, to about five thousand eight hundred and twenty pounds; in the next, to about six thousand one hundred pounds; in the next, to above nine thousand pounds; in the next, to eleven thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds; and in the last seven, to near twenty thousand pounds per annum. One reason for this great increase in the last twenty years is, that about the year 1787, the duty on hawkers and pedlars became wholly unproductive; and the amount of annual subscriptions had then, and has since declined very considerably; and in the year 1794, on the adoption of new regulations in the management of the treasury in Ireland, his Majesty's bounty of one thousand pounds per annum being discontinued, the parliamentary grant was augmented, as a compensation to the society. In the year 1758, there was an extraordinary grant of five thousand pounds (included in the average of the first ten years) for erecting four provincial nurseries for the reception of children below the age of admission into the schools, for the maintenance of which, parliament was in some degree pledged, by thus sanctioning and directing establishments for which no other provision existed; and the grants were accordingly larger from the time these nurseries were opened; they were designed to contain one hundred children each, and have usually their full compliment. In the same year, 1758, the society having become possessed of lands in the county of Westmeath, and other property bequeathed to them by the reverend William Wilson, for founding a charter school in that county, did accordingly establish one on the lands so devised, the clear rents of which amount at present to one hundred and ninety-one pounds seventeen shillings and six pence per annum. In the year 1760, the estates of the late earl of Ranelagh, which had been devised by him for the support of charity schools at Roscommon and Athlone, were vested in the society by act of parliament; and two schools were in a short time accordingly established at those places, into which, agreeably to the will of lord Ranelagh, the children of Protestants only are admitted. The rental of these estates amounts at present to one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight pounds two shillings and six pence. In the year 1763, doctor Richard Pococke, bishop of Ossory, bequeathed a considerable estate both real and personal to the incorporated society, for founding a weaving school near Kilkenny, for Papist boys only, to be educated in the Protestant religion, which school was accordingly established, and continues to be supported out of said bequest; the real estate produces at this time eight hundred and forty-six pounds nine shillings and four pence ha'penny, and is more than sufficient for the maintenance of the present establishment; so that there is now an accumulation of this fund, of above sixteen hundred pounds in the hands of the society. In the year 1764, the late Chidley Coote, esquire, devised an estate in the county of Limerick to the society, which is let at present for 230*l.* per annum. Since that time, there have been four additional schools erected out of the general funds of the society: one at Castlebar, in 1768; one at Tarbert; and another at Newmarket, since suppressed; and the school in Baggot-street in the city of Dublin, established in 1804. The total number of schools founded by the society, including the nurseries and those on the Ranelagh

salaries as shall seem reasonable, together with the benefit of school-houses, dwelling-houses, gardens, fields, and the other accommodations for the purposes aforesaid: It further directs that a committee of fifteen members of the society, chosen annually, shall carry into execution all orders, rules and directions made at the general meetings, to be held quarterly or oftener; and provides for the admission of new members into the society, viz. such as being Protestants shall become subscribers or benefactors to the funds thereof. And for enabling the society to carry these objects into effect, it makes them and their successors for ever capable of receiving and enjoying lands, rents, annuities, and other hereditaments, not exceeding the clear yearly value of two thousand pounds, and to take and receive any sums of money, goods, or chattels that shall be given or bequeathed to them by any persons or bodies corporate who shall be capable of making such gifts or bequests.

The charter was opened the 6th of February 1733-4 in the council chamber of the castle of Dublin, in the presence of the Duke of Dorset, then lord lieutenant of Ireland, and many of the principal nobility, gentry, and clergy; and a subscription was immediately entered into, and afterwards carried on both in England and Ireland, by which the society was enabled to found one school in the course of the following year; it was placed at Castle-dermot, in the county of Kildare, in acknowledgment of the munificence of the then Earl of Kildare, who, in addition to his original subscription of five hundred pounds, engaged to endow it with a grant of twenty acres of land. Three other schools were founded in the year 1735, one in 1736, and three in 1737. In fixing on the sites of these and of their other schools in general, the society appears to have been determined partly by the presumed necessity for them in very Popish districts, and partly by the offers of Protestant landholders to endow them with lands, not only for building on, but for the maintenance and support of the schools, and to afford opportunities for instructing and exercising the boys in agriculture and gardening. Such endowments were in general made by leases renewable for ever, or on very long tenures, and at very low rents (on the condition however of reverting to the grantors and their heirs, if the schools should be discontinued, or not kept up to the original establishment); and the lands annexed to each school are held under the society by the masters at an advanced rent, but usually far below the real value, so as to form a considerable part of their income. The Protestant gentry and clergy in the neighbourhood of each school usually contributed to its support by annual subscriptions; the average of these and other subscriptions for the first four years (which, with the profit rents already mentioned, were then the only funds of the society) amounted to about sixteen hundred pounds per annum. Of this sum, the greater part was raised in England, where a society was formed for the purpose of procuring such contributions, and which subsisted for many years, under the name of "The Corresponding Society."—In the year 1738, his Majesty, George the second, having on an address from the society been graciously pleased to augment its funds by the grant of one thousand pounds, which was afterwards continued annually; six additional schools were erected, with similar encouragement and support from those on whose estates or in whose neighbourhood they were placed: and other liberal offers and contributions continuing to be annually made to the society, they were enabled in the next nine years to establish as many new schools.

In the year 1740, the society became possessed of their first landed estate, devised to them by the honourable Mrs. Anne Hamilton, for founding a school at Dundalk, and situated in the county of Down; it was then let for thirty-five pounds nineteen shillings and six pence, but has since risen to two hundred and seventy-six pounds per annum. In the year 1747, the produce of the duty on hawkers and pedlars was granted by parliament to the society, amounting, on an average of the next forty years, to eleven hundred and fifty pounds per annum. By this bounty of parliament, the

be hereafter mentioned respecting the properties of the primitive kinds of earths which compose the different soils, it may be necessary to consider what chemists inform us respecting the origin of vegetable productions in general: and also of the properties of the different kinds of airs, acids or salts, which are so essential for the support of plants and vegetables.

By a number of chemical experiments it has been ascertained that the basis of all earthly productions is the carbonic acid, or fixed air, and heat or fire; these compounded with hydrogen or inflammable air, produces the essential oil, with which all vegetables abound, consequently soils which contains this essential oil, are the best adapted for cultivation.

The carbonic acid, or fixed air, is a combination of oxygen and pure charcoal, of which the charcoal forms rather more than one sixth, it is found in a state of gas on the surface of certain waters, and in subterraneous places, and produces many sudden deaths, at the breaking into old coal-works, and in opening of cellars where any kind of fermentation has taken place.

Oxygen has its name from its acidifying quality; every acid is a combination of this gas, with some elementary substance or base, it has also been called the air of fire, because combustion never takes place without it; and vital air because it is that part of the air which is absorbed in the lungs for the support of life.

Nitrogen gas is so called, from its being the radical of nitrous acid, or aquafortis; it is also called mephites and azote, from the property if breathed alone, of depriving animals of life. Nitrogen is that part of the air, which is respired from the lungs: but that which is absorbed by plants and vegetables, they respire the oxygen.

Hydrogen has its name from its property of producing water, it is also called inflammable air, from its property of burning or exploding with vital air; it is not proper for respiration, yet it has not the sudden mortal effects of nitrogen. In the formation of air, oxygen is a little more than a quarter of the compound, the rest is nitrogen: in the composition of water, hydrogen is not the one sixth part of the fluid, the rest is oxygen.

Chemists inform us that the primitive earths which enter into the composition of soils, are seldom found uncombined; besides their being mixed with acids or salts, they are constantly mixed with each other, and form masses of greater or less magnitude, and various hardness, according to the nature of the earths, their state of division, and the character of the foreign substances which are combined with them, such as irons, bitumens, &c. Chemists, by decomposing these masses have succeeded in discovering nine different kinds of earthy elements,* but the earthy elements most extensively distributed and which are best known to most farmers; consists of four in number, namely, calcar, chalk or limestone; argil, clay or alumine; magnesia or soapy earth; and silex, or sand.

Calcar, or calcareous earth, contains great quantities of the aërial acid, or fixed air, and is the matrix of all earthly productions: as without it no vegetable will grow; but not having of itself any alkali, will not be productive unless mixed with other earths; it hastens the fusion of aluminous, magnesian, and silicious earths.

Argil, or argillaceous earths, when pure, is always defective in the carbonic acid, or fixed air, but is of the greatest importance to all vegetables, not only by its quality of retaining water, but also for the alkali which is necessary to all plants.

Magnesia, or soapy earth, contains an oily substance composed of fixed air, and water and is therefore of service in the improvement of calcareous and argillaceous soils.

Silex, or sand, contains little that is productive of life; but having an affinity to alkali, is of use in correcting that of argillaceous, or clay soils.

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* For an account of these different kinds of earths, with the discoveries of the same, see vol. II, of this Magazine, page 349, and 350.

and Pococke foundations, amounted to fifty-eight, and were capable of containing about two thousand seven hundred children. It is certain however that this number was never actually accommodated in them at any one time; and, indeed the entire number of schools never existed together, as several of them had been suppressed, or otherwise discontinued, before the latest of them had been established. This was occasioned generally by the local disadvantages of their situation, and in some instances by the resumption of lands which had been granted for their support. The number of those, of all descriptions, remaining at present, is thirty nine; in which there appear, by the last returns, to have been two thousand two hundred and fifty-one children.

In the year 1786, the funds of the society were augmented by the estates of the late John Rogerson esq. who had directed in his will that they should be sold, and the purchase money, after paying certain legacies and other bequests, be vested in the incorporated society. It appears, however, that only so much of his estates was sold, as was sufficient for discharging these bequests, and the society obtained possession of the remainder, which produced at that time thirteen hundred and fifty-nine pounds fourteen shillings and one penny per annum, but have since been raised to seventeen hundred and seventy pounds. In 1789, the society succeeded to an estate in the county of Louth, at present producing above three hundred pounds per annum, under the will of the late dean Stewart, dated in the year 1774, which directed that on failure of issue of the immediate devisees, it should be vested in the incorporated society, for the purposes therein expressed. There have been other smaller bequests and donations of lands and rent charges for the support of particular schools, amounting in the whole to about two hundred and thirty-eight pounds per annum; and the profit rent of the lands, held by the several school-masters under the society, amounts to about one hundred and eighty pounds per annum. There is also an annual grant of two hundred and fifty pounds made to the society, by the governors of Erasmus Smith's schools, for the support of the charter school of Sligo. In the year 1790, a Dutch nobleman, resident in London, Baron Vryhouven, bequeathed to the society a great part of his funded property, amounting to fifty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-six pounds stock in the three per-cent. consols, and producing an interest of about seventeen hundred pounds per annum. And about the same time an unknown benefactor transferred to the society, stock to the amount of forty thousand pounds in the 4-per-cents. producing about sixteen hundred pounds per annum. The entire produce of these several funds and estates bequeathed to, and vested in the incorporated society, for the sole and express purpose of educating poor children in the Protestant religion, and apprenticing them to Protestant masters, amounted in the last year (exclusive of the parliamentary grant) to £9765 9 7 per annum.

To be continued.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATURE OF SOILS, WITH THEIR MODE OF IMPROVEMENT.

SIR,

I SEND you the following observations on the nature of Soils, with the mode of improving the same, according to the method at present adopted by every intelligent farmer in this country: hoping it may stimulate others of your Correspondents, who are perhaps better versed in the latest discoveries in philosophy, and chemistry, to turn their attention towards this subject; which is of the utmost importance to every practical farmer in the management of their farms; and though it cannot be supposed that every farmer can be a philosopher, or an adept chemist, yet there are none who may not make themselves acquainted with the nature of the soil which they cultivate, relative to its component parts; and by judicious and proper treatment to render it (as far as is in his power) prolific in the production of vegetables of every kind.

In order that some of your readers may the better understand what may

Although in the composition of soils, the proportion of these earths varies according to the local circumstances of the ground, and climate of the country, as where calcareous soils abound, the air is generally humid; whilst on the contrary silicious, earths are principally the produce of hot climates. By a number of chemical experiments, made in Sweden, by the celebrated Bergman, it has been found that the best soil for the purpose of agriculture, consists of four parts of argil, or clay, eight of silicious earth, or sand, two of calcar, chalk, or lime, and one of magnesia, or soapy earth.

Though the general part of farmers, in this country, cannot account, on chemical principles, for the manner they improve their farms; yet nevertheless the progress of rural improvement and cultivation has undergone these few years back has been very considerable. This may be attributed to the increased attention paid to the management of their manures, and also to liming, soiling, draining, &c.

The nitrogen gas which constitutes one of the nutritious principles of plants and vegetables, is more abundantly afforded by the decomposition of vegetables, and the dung of animals, than by any other means; therefore great pains is taken to increase the quantity, by mixing up their dunghills with the scouring of drains, scrapings off the streets, &c. and letting the whole ferment together, which fermentation is accelerated, and the manure improved, by their scooping back occasionally from a reservoir or place appointed to receive the same, the urine, and other substances, which ouzes out of their dunghills, this method not only increases the quantity but is found to give as good crops of potatoes, and other kinds of grain, as when dung alone is employed. The following is the method generally adopted in improving the following kinds of soils.

Calcareous, chalk, or limestone soils, are considered to be hot and drying, they receive water freely, but give it too quickly; when limestone soils are mixed with a sufficient quantity of other earths, they are the most friendly to vegetable productions;—but when otherwise, in dry weather, they become too hard, and in wet weather become too loose and moist, therefore, are improved by soiling with clay and magnesian earths, and also by manuring with animal and vegetable marles, where the same can be found, but where marle cannot be found by manuring sparingly with lime; which practice is lately began to be adopted in this country and is found to fertilize the soil by replenishing it with the necessary quantity of fixed air required by the crops, and which the limestone gravel cannot afford: this and all other kinds of soils require to be manured with dung compost, every third or fourth year, and set with potatoes in the lazy-bed method, or if the ground is weedy, and full of quicken or couch grass, in the drill method, as the frequent ploughings in dressing up potatoes in this way, generally causes the weeds and grass to ferment and rot, but if this method be often repeated it is found to be prejudicial to light soils, by making them to loose, consequently not consistent enough to retain the ærial acid or fixed air; rolling might be of service in this case.

Argillaceous, or clay soils, are of various kinds, and are considered to be moist and cold, and absorb the water, but do not communicate it. Clay soils also abounds in springs which overflow the ground, and render it sterile: owing to spring water being always impregnated with foreign substances (such as iron, copper &c.) which are hostile to vegetation. The first step therefore taken in improving soils of this kind (or any kind of soils where springs are) is to dry the same, by drains, and trenches, or closed sewers, made in proper places, and where there is not a proper fall for the rain-water, by leaving open sewers to carry off the same. Clay soils (as before mentioned) are always defective in the fixed air; therefore frequent limings are necessary; by this means the clay will become mellow and divided, at the same time that the drying quality of the lime will be mitigated, and if the clay is predominant and stiff, bog or moor is added along with the lime; but where this cannot be procured, sand or limestone gravel, these with dung have

all a tendency to meliorate soils of this kind, and to give free access to the air to pass through the same, which it could not do was the soil too tenacious or stiff.

Magnesia, or soapy earth, possesses intermediate properties between the foregoing earths, therefore is improved by the introduction of argillaceous and silicious earths with lime.

Sandy soils are hot and dry; the air therefore has an entrance sufficiently easy, but with equal ease leaves the incoherent soil; heavy soils of every description which would heretofore be considered prejudicial to land, are dug for with avidity in the bottoms of ditches and other places for the improvement of light and shallow soils, of this and the calcareous kinds. These heavy soils are by some laid on the ground when raised, adding lime if necessary: and by others made into a compost and mixed with lime, and turned occasionally in order to meliorate and ferment.

Lastly bogs or moorlands, are generally composed of dry and decayed roots of vegetables; and have various kinds of bottoms; some are composed of small particles of granite, interspersed with stones of that description; some have rocky bottoms without a sufficient quantity of earth; whilst others have clay bottoms, and are easiest improved; of the latter kind the bog and moor soils of this country are generally composed and are improved (when the turf is cut off the same within a spading of the clay) by burning, and with the ashes, setting potatoes in the same several times, which mixes the clay with the soil; it is then found to give excellent meadow, when levelled and laid down with grass seeds, and irrigated or manured occasionally with ashes or other composts; but where the clay is too deep to be got to, moory lands of this kind are manured or mixed with weighty soils, which is of service in giving stability thereto to retain the water and fixed air; which is so necessary to the production of grasses and vegetables of every kind and species.

J.D.

Upper Fews, County Armagh, September 4, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IF you deem the following trifle worthy of a place in your miscellany, your insertion of it will much oblige your very humble servant, M'K.

GLANCES FROM DERRY TO GRACEHILL.

When viewed "through the dark postern of time long elapsed," Derry is an interesting place, but presents nothing attractive now, save its beautiful wooden bridge. A most delightful day tempted me to ascend the mail-coach, and highly was I gratified by the fine, and varying views which every moment presented themselves, for two miles from Derry. The river lay under our inspection; now an American vessel spread her white sails to the wind, and floated majestically down the stream; again, a daring little boat, scarce a speck among the waves, caught the passsing breeze, and lightly skimmed along the surface of the deep. Here, the wind-mill rivetted our eyes, and there, we gazed with delight on Boom-hall, and its beautiful grounds. After losing sight of the river, the road for several miles runs through a level but uninteresting country; however, even this part of our journey was not without amusement; for as the doors of the houses were crowded with old women and young, to behold the loaded vehicle, our guard (an uncommonly humorous fellow) to the old, made the most obsequious, and to the young the most polite and gallant bows; now, he took off his hat to a cross-looking country fellow, and again he held out a letter to another, and at the approach of the fellow, raised the laugh at his simplicity. From the sameness of a level country, we were relieved by a veiw of Lough Foyle. On entering a large wood, its solemn stillness was grateful; but *Meg of Wapping*, sung by one of the passengers, destroyed the solemnity of the scene. Whirled through Ballykelly, (a poor straggling village) with the rapidity of Jehu, I glanced at an elegant little church and spire, and in a few minutes came in sight of Newtownlimavaddy, a small town, of rather a respectable appearance; turning the corner of its main street, I was struck by the uncommon beauty of the view;

at one glance the eye beholds a spacious level street, terminated by lofty and luxuriant trees, and a majestic mountain;" the united beauty of these objects is indescribable, and to be felt must be seen. Intending to sleep here, I sauntered through the town, found it contained about 300 houses; its inhabitants mostly in business; but from the spaciousness and beauty of the principal street, it has rather the appearance of an elegant retreat. Attracted by the sound of a drum, I walked to the parade of a company of yeomanry; their appearance struck me, as being peculiarly clean, and the uniformity of their dress, to the most minute trifle, evinced them to be no common corps; but the pleasure I felt in their appearance was trifling, compared to the delight with which I contemplated their masterly performance of the different evolutions: as soldiers they are an honour to the officer who commands them; but, as an Irishman, and a Christian, I was sorry to observe emblems of a party spirit among them. Spirit of that blessed religion which breathes "peace on earth and good will to men," where art thou flown?—"Heaven and hell are not more distant (says Lord Lyttleton) than the benevolent spirit of the Gospel and the malignant spirit of party." I slept here, and after breakfasting set off on foot to Garvagh. The road led me over "cloud-capt hills:" Is it the pleasure of sight alone that elevates and tranquilizes the mind on the tops of mountains? or, is it, that raised above this "little scene of things," we proudly look down on the earth-born mortals who crawl beneath our feet? "Here (says Rousseau) our meditations acquire a degree of sublimity, from the grandeur of the objects around us. It seems as if being lifted above human society, we had left every low terrestrial sentiment behind; and that as we approached the ethereal regions, the soul imbibes something of their eternal purity." Such were the reflections of the author of Eloisa; but, had the sentimental "citizen of Geneva" travelled with me this day, willingly, most willingly would he have exchanged all the *sublimity* of the mountains for the *beauty* of a blazing turf fire: for, in my opinion, if those elevated regions are delightful to the traveller when all nature smiles, they are no less horrible when the thunder appals his soul, and the rain pours in torrents on his unsheltered head. Garvagh presents, not lordly domes, splendid edifices, the martial music of the soldier, nor the hoarse shrill cry of the sailor; but one street of neat white houses, embosomed in lofty trees, and appeared in my eyes a little Eden, after encountering the "blast on the heath."

I left Garvagh, and without seeing any thing worthy of remark, in about two hours arrived in Kilrea; much has been written on the effect of contrast—more said on the power the imagination has over the judgment: the first of these causes certainly transformed Garvagh into paradise, in my eyes; and is it possible that the last made Kilrea appear to me a poor, small village, lonely and ruinous? though no "grass waved in its courts, nor fox looked out at the windows," yet poor-looking is the village of Kilrea, and silence reigns through its streets: it stands about half a mile from the peaceful undulating waters of the Bann, which is here about 80 yards wide. From this to Grace-hill (about ten miles) the country is mostly hilly, and often did I sit down to rest my wearied limbs; yet, thank heaven, every situation hath its charms, for in those moments of rest I sometimes was delighted with the most picturesque landscapes: now the lonely Bann unfolded its unrippled bosom to my eyes, and again some intervening hillock concealed it from my view; here, a large and interesting view of part of the county of Derry presented itself to me, and there, a long tract of the county of Antrim lay before me. Meek twilight had in "her sober livery all things clad," before I reached Grace-hill, being completely tired, I immediately went to bed, and, unsought,

"Tir'd Nature's sweet restorer, balmy Sleep,
"His ready visit paid."

I awoke in the morning with renovated spirits, and walked out to see what kind of place I was in; I was astonished, yet delighted: seas roll between nations more like each other than Grace-hill and the surrounding

country. About twenty houses of different sizes, mostly detached from each other, and built around a square field, neatly hedged in, and ornamented with trees, shrubs, flowers, a fish-pond, gravel walks, &c. form the singularly beautiful Grace-hill: a taste the most exquisite, an elegant simplicity, is apparent in every thing we behold, in their houses, their dress, their manners; but surpassingly lovely where all is beautiful, is the modesty, elegance, and simplicity of the Moravian girls: truly, most truly, did Thomson say, that

"Beauty when unadorn'd is adorn'd the most."

The Moravians are supposed to have arisen under Count Zinzendorf, a German nobleman, who died in 1760. They are called Moravians, because the first converts to his system were some Moravian families. They in general profess to adhere to the Augsburgh Confession of Faith; and direct their worship to our Saviour, personifying every part of his body, even the wound in his side. They are fond of instrumental as well as vocal music in their religious services; and they revive their devotion by morning and evening prayers, and celebrating love feasts. The sexes mix not with each other before marriage, each generally living in houses by themselves; even in their chapel they do not come near each other; hard, hard, this; but still worse, no courting, no choice of the dear object whom we wish to make our partner through life, as the right of contracting marriage rests with the elders: this is hard, but accustomed from infancy to consider marriage in this point of view, it is not so bad as we imagine. However, no matter about their form of worship, or peculiar customs, they appear to possess the true Christian spirit, love of God and man.

M. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOU will, doubtless, have observed with pleasure, that a Society has been formed in Dublin, for the exalted and patriotic purpose of reviving a knowledge of our ancient instrument, the Harp. Of the source from whence the idea originated, there can be but one opinion—that it was the *example of Belfast;* where a number of individuals, worthy of their country's name, had previously associated themselves together, and liberally subscribed for the same most interesting object.

Far be it from me to view the proceedings of the Dublin Harp Society with envy or jealousy. No; success attend their patriotic efforts, and unfading honour be their reward. May the spirits of our ancient bards hover o'er the regenerated strings of the Harp, and inspire the consecrated song of gratitude, swelling their praise in sweet and native strains. But, let it never be forgotten, that *Belfast* led the way—that from her bosom emanated the generous warmth which has recalled to animated existence the famed genius of Irish melody, so long, so shamefully torpid. That in Belfast the first meeting of Irish harpers (procured by the inhabitants at considerable expense) took place in the year 1792. That Bunting of Belfast, whose musical talents are universally admired, was the first to rescue the fast fading reliques of our tuneful bards from threatening oblivion, and to give the world a complete collection of celebrated and original Irish airs; and, finally, that the *first* Society for diffusing a knowledge of the Harp, and perpetuating our national music, was instituted in *Belfast*, a society that is entitled to the grateful tributes of Irishmen, and that I doubt not will be honourably recorded in the future annals of our country's taste, science, and glory.

HIBERNICUS.

Belfast, August, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AS from the long continued, unfavourable state of the weather there is reason to fear that in some places the grain may be late in ripening, we recommend to our agricultural readers the following observations on this subject, whence it may appear that even under unfavourable circumstances grain will improve, and that caution should be used not to cut down too hastily, from the idea that no further ripening can be expected. Theory and practice appear

to be so judiciously blended in these experiments, that we recommend them to the particular attention of all engaged in inquiries on agriculture.

Extracts from an Essay on the Influence of Frost, and other varieties of bad Weather, on the ripening of Corn. By the late Benjamin Bell esq. Trans. Highland Soc. vol. 3.

I was induced to consider this subject with attention in Autumn 1782, when at the usual season of the corns in this country being all got home, none of them were ready for cutting in the spring and summer of that year, the weather was for the most part wet and cold, and therefore very unfavourable to vegetation. The crops were accordingly weak during the whole season so that when the frost took place early in Autumn, they were very generally in a situation little able to bear it, few of them except wheat, being at that period better than chaff; and excepting in well sheltered early grounds, all of them were so green, that there was reason to fear they would not ripen sufficiently either for being used as food, or for seed in the following spring.

I had reason, however, at that time to believe, from having seen that corns in every state of their growth could resist severe degrees of cold, that they would be perfectly fit for seed, if they should become sufficiently full; for I had known corn, even when nearly ripe, exposed repeatedly to frost, without being apparently hurt by it; I also know that corns continue to fill even in frost; and in the course of that season I was much pleased to find, even in the coldest state of the weather, that although the corns did not require their usual ripe appearance, yet in all low situations, that is, in such as were not three hundred feet above the level of the sea, they continued to fill, and at last to become little inferior in bulk to the same kinds of corn in ordinary years.

But, in order to discover the exact degree of maturity that corns can reach while exposed to frost before being ripe, and to learn with certainty, whether corns in this situation, as well as those that are ripe, are rendered unfit for seed by exposure to frost; various experiments were made, of which the following is an account:

EXPERIMENT 1:

On the first of october 1782, twelve full grown stalks were cut in a field of barley, and twelve in a field of oats. In both fields the crop was entirely green, the corn quite soft, and it did not appear to have been more than a fourth part full, from each stalk twelve seeds were taken, of those that were best filled, being 144 of the oats, and as many of the barley, and after being dried at a moderate heat, the barley and oats were put into separate paper bags and each of them marked No. 1.

On the 20th of October, and again on the 12th of November, the same number of seeds were taken from the same number of stalks, both of barley and oats, gathered in the same fields; and all of them being dried in the same manner with the first, the barley and oats that were cut on the 20th of October were marked No. 2, and the others No. 3.

On the oats being weighed No. 2 was just twice the weight of No. 1, No. 3 was nearly three times the weight of No. 4, and No. 2 as well as No. 3 of barley had improved in a still greater degree. But although the oats and barley of both fields appeared to be tolerably full, when those of No. 3 were cut, they never acquired a ripe appearance. Although neither of the crops were cut, till the end of November, still they continued of a dark colour, and on the corn being dried, none of it was so full as it ought to have been, although all of it yielded more flower or meal than had been expected under the circumstances that I have stated; but on being tried with oats and barley, that were full and ripe neither of them were so heavy by a fourth part.

The oats and barley No. 1, 2, and 3, were kept with the view of discovering how far they were fit for seed; and wishing to know whether the other seeds commonly sown by farmers in this country, were affected in the same manner, trials also were made of them in spring 1783, in comparison with other grain, and the results carefully noted;

From these trials, it appeared that oats and barley, while in a green state, will bear considerable degrees of frost; that they both continue to acquire additional weight although they are exposed to frost, and that this exposure does not destroy the principle of vegetation in either of them: for in experiment two, it was found, that of twenty seeds of barley, and the same number of oats which had been repeatedly exposed to frost, fourteen of the one, and fifteen of the other, speedily germinated, and even that a large proportion of the barley and oats vegetated that were not only exposed to frosts, but that were cut before being half filled, and while they contained therefore but a small proportion of flour or nourishment. Pease and tares as well as clover, appeared by these experiments to suffer more severely by frosts than barley or oats. I knew indeed that this was the common opinion of farmers, and having heard, that farmers in high districts were resolved to sow a much larger quantity of seed on the whole of their grounds than usual, not only of barley and oats, but of pease, tares, and clover, it did not appear that any advantage could be gained by making the result of these experiments public.

The first experiments were made in pots filled with rich garden mould, and placed in a hot-bed. It occurred therefore that they were not carried sufficiently far: they did not even determine the chief point in view, namely the propriety of trusting to seed which had been exposed during its growth, to frost and other varieties of bad weather. That this might be proved with certainty the experiments it was manifest, should be made in an open field, and not by the seeds being forced with artificial heat, and sown in rich mould, which might make seeds vegetate that would not grow in cold, poor grounds, such as many of our corns are too frequently own in.

It also appeared, that in order to render the experiment fair and decisive, those seeds that were exposed to frost during their growth, and not entirely full, should be compared with those that were full and ripe, when sown in similar circumstances. With this view, and on these principles, three more experiments were tried, the first in pots of common earth, placed in the field from whence it was taken, and the other two on a considerable scale on the field itself, of which the particulars would too much extend this article.

From these experiments, and others which it is not necessary to enumerate, from the results being nearly the same, the following conclusions may be formed:

1. That barley and oats may be exposed to much variety of bad weather, in every period of their growth, without being destroyed, and that they even continue to acquire additional weight, although frequently exposed to severe degrees of cold, and occasionally, even to frost.

2. Hence, that in late harvests, unripe corn should not be too hastily cut, from an apprehension of its being killed by frost.

3. In order to judge of the effect of frost, and other varieties of bad weather, on corn, and of the progress it continues to make, it should be frequently examined with much care and attention, so that none of it may be cut till its farther increase appears to be at an end.

4. In 1782, as well as other bad seasons, it appeared that corn does not suffer so much from frost, whether before it is cut, or after it, when it is dry, as it does from rain and wet snow. It will bear a great deal of frost, and yet continue to fill; and even when cut, it is not so much hurt by it, if it be dry; but it is soon destroyed entirely, when exposed to much cold rain, or wet snow. This proceeds from its being apt to vegetate when it is wet, which not only renders barley totally unfit for malt, but exhausts the strength of every kind of corn which vegetates under such circumstances. This destructive occurrence is most frequent in close, moist weather. In this state of the atmosphere, even corn that is not cut, and while still in full vigour of growth, sometimes vegetates, especially if it be lodged, and in some wet seasons it happens even to that which never was laid.

5. But though it appears from these experiments, that corns acquires additional weight, even in considerable degrees of cold, it is also evident that exposure to frost renders them very unfit for seed; while every seed of good corn will vegetate and thrive, if placed at a proper depth in a good soil, a proportion of seeds that have been exposed to frost never appear above the surface, and the plants of those that actually vegetate, are so weak, that the crop is not only smaller in quantity, but the corn of inferior quality.

6. Although from these and other experiments, it appears that in using well ripened corn for seed, the crop which it yields depends in a considerable degree on the weight of it; yet this does not happen in any evident degree with corn that has suffered from frost; for the plants arising from corn that has been exposed to much frost are always weak, and the produce small, even although the seed is of the ordinary weight.

7. Frost appears to be still more hurtful to pulse or liguminous plants, such as beans, peas and tares, than to wheat, oats, or barley. In every part of their progress this appears to be the case; for while wheat, oats, and even barley, are frequently exposed to frost in the months of March, April and May, and not unfrequently to slight degrees of it in autumn, without being injured in their growth, this does not happen with any of the varieties of pulse, which are commonly much hurt by it, particularly pease and tares, in every stage of their progress.

All the gasses usually sown in Britain, are likewise much injured by frost, and none of them more than the red or broad leaved clover, which should not therefore be sowed while the frosts in spring continue.

8. Although grain is not much hurt by moderate exposure to frost in spring, it is sufficiently evident, from what has been said, that in autumn it renders it so unfit for seed, that none which has been ever exposed to it should be made use of. If well and properly kept, it may be used for food; but after every season in which much frost has prevailed in harvest, no corn should be sown that has grown in high districts; all that is necessary for seed should be got from better climates, either from the south of England, France, or other countries where the crops have not been hurt by frost.

9. Even as a measure of economy, in the first instance, this ought to be done; for in using seed that has been injured by frost, nearly twice the quantity is commonly sown, that the ground requires of good seed, and yet the difference in price seldom amounts to a sixth part. Both in the quantity and quality of the crops which they produce, the difference is also such, that they bear no comparison, for the corn is not only inferior in quality, when the seed has been hurt by frost, but the crop seldom extends to a third part of the produce of good seed.

10. When good corn cannot therefore be procured without difficulty in high districts, as is commonly the case in bad seasons, it would be much for the national interest to have it furnished by public assistance, and given on reasonable terms to those who require it.

11. Corn that has been hurt by frost, snows, or rain, is easily distinguished from good corn, for the latter is plump and full, of a peculiar healthy colour, well known to farmers and dealers in corn, and is commonly free from chaff; whereas the former is shrivelled; for even the best of it is never entirely full, and it appears as if it were bleached, and it does not easily part with the chaff.

12. The capability of vegetating, when sown in a hot-bed, is not a sufficient test of the goodness of seed, though the chief one which seedsmen recommend; for in the experiments it was manifest, that seed may possess the full power of vegetating, and yet be totally unfit to produce a good crop.

13. The cause of this probably is, that seeds and roots not only require a good soil, to render the plants which they produce healthy, strong, and numerous; but it seems also necessary that they should contain a certain quantity of nutrimental matter for their support. This, there is reason to imagine, will prove chiefly useful when they first begin to germinate, a period at which both the tender radicles and stems of plants may be supposed less fit to search for nourishment in the

surrounding elements than they afterwards become; and it is well known, in the rearing of vegetables as well as animals, that no future attention will render them strong, if they are kept weak from a deficiency of food, or any other cause when they are young.

14, The practice of washing seed in brine and other saline infusions, proves useful only by washing off those seeds, that are light and weak and not by any virtue which these articles communicate to the seed.

When light seed is made use of the crops more readily suffer from blight and other diseases; and it appears that many diseases of plants, especially such as give rise to the generation of insects, are particularly apt to communicate the contagion to plants that are weak; which, like animals in a state of debility do not so readily resist contagion, nor the formation of those vermin by which they are most apt to be destroyed, as those that are sound and vigorous.

15, This, accordingly, should be considered as a powerful motive for using only the best corn for seed; a maxim that cannot be too strongly inculcated.

16, For the prevention of the hurtful consequences above recited, none but the best seed of every kind should be sown; with this view, farmers should not only procure seed that has been well ripened, but such as has been well kept, and never injured by frosts, snow, or rain. It would also be much for their interests, to wash the whole of their seed corn and pulse in strong brine, for when properly done it not only carries off all the light grains, but also the seeds of a great many weeds, which cannot in any other way be so completely separated from it.

17, The influence, before mentioned, which the size of seeds has in giving sufficient nourishment to plants, is well exemplified in the culture of potatoes: For it appears, from many well conducted experiments, that crops of potatoes prove *cæteris paribus*, abundant or otherwise, nearly in proportion to the size of the sets; insomuch that ground planted with entire potatoes, generally yields a third more than if sets only of the ordinary size are made use of. Large crops of potatoes, may sometimes be got even from the smallest sets; but in every fair experiment known to the author, of the two methods of planting, the crop has been uniformly best, where roots of a middling size have been planted entire.

18, As nothing therefore is saved by using small sets of potatoes, but a few bushels per acre, at the time of planting, while the difference of produce runs from one hundred to one hundred and fifty bushels, the practice of planting them in small sets should be discouraged every where, precisely for the same reason that heavy, well filled corn, when otherwise in good condition, should in all circumstances be preferred to that which is light.

19, From these experiments as well as others, it appears that the preference commonly given to new corn for seed is not well founded.

By experiments four and five, the produce of old corn, both in quantity and quality, was equal to that of the best corn newly reaped. This also is the case with all the grass seeds, that we commonly sow; one of the best crops of hay that the author recollects to have seen, was obtained from a mixture of red, white, and yellow clover, rib grass, and ray grass, which by accident had been neglected, and kept for six years.—about an acre was sown with this mixture, while the rest of the field was sown with seeds of the preceding year, and the crop was equally good over the whole.

20, Hence in dry warm seasons, when all our grass seeds are commonly good, every farmer who has it in his power, should purchase a large quantity of those that he usually sows, to make use of when other seeds are scarce and bad, which always happens after cold or wet seasons. It is on this principle of seeds retaining their vegetating power for a long time, that we account for the sudden appearance of many of the grasses and other plants, where they had not grown for a long period before. After the great fire in London, in 1666, broom and clover appeared on the site of almost every house

in the space of a few months, although the whole had been occupied by streets for several centuries. We daily perceive in Scotland that white clover appears almost as soon as the heath is destroyed, with which lands had been occupied before: and it is probable that corn, pulse, and grass seeds, if they ha e been sound and good at first, and properly kept, will be found quite fit for seed, even when a good many years old.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I FELT much gratified in finding the Report of our Maryborough Institution inserted in your last number. The determination which you have expressed, of turning your attention to matters peculiarly relating to the welfare of this country, is praiseworthy, and deserves every encouragement.

If you should approve of the following *trifling*, though *useful* scheme of promoting the health, comfort, and I may venture to add, decent, if not moral conduct, of common labourers, I should be obliged to you to procure its insertion.

I had been struck, as most men of common humanity I presume often have been before, with the misery which many labourers experience in seasons wet or cold, from the insufficiency of clothing, as well as from its frail and tattered texture.

I purchased, in the first instance, a quantity of frize, and had jackets made for my workmen, intending to stop from them, on a settlement, the cost, exclusive, however, of the buttons, &c. which I gave to them as an encouragement to come into my scheme.

I found, however, that it was much easier for me to give them jackets, than for them to pay me the price of them. Some, on getting the jackets, were regardless of paying for them; some were either turned out, or quitted the work; and even those who were honestly disposed felt the weight of the payment, drawn at once from their wages.

I tried this experiment for two or three years; at last I devised the following simple plan:—I had agreed to pay my labourers the standing price of fifteen pence a day for their work. I took the opportunity of the winter season (when I knew that they would not leave me) to inform them of my determination, that I would pay but thirteen pence a day, but that in case of good behaviour I should give them a *gratuity* of two pence additional a day, reserving to myself the privilege of appropriating this money as I chose. By this means I avoided the possibility of being obliged to pay this additional two-pence a day, which I might have been compelled to, had it been stopped out of wages; and I constantly was enabled to hold a tight reign over my workmen; and it is sufficiently plain that none would leave my work as long as they had a considerable sum depending upon their staying with me—I was enabled farther to check them in drunkenness.

My steward now keeps, in his workmen's account book, a running account of the *total* number of days (which requires but one column, and which is the chief trouble) each man has worked. Whenever a settlement is necessary, it is only referring to this column, which is continued from week to week, and the sum is at once seen to which each man is entitled. I am enabled by this means to clothe my workmen without expense to myself, or, I may venture to add, without much expense to *themselves*. I consider that scarce a man of them feels inconvenience by this arrangement, as, in fact, a considerable part of the price of the jacket would most probably be squandered. The jacket is made of frize, lined with drugget; it is fashioned after a shooting jacket, meeting close round the throat, and close round the middle of the thigh, being cut straight, consequently the breast, the most important part of the body, is completely covered and protected. The prime cost of the jacket complete, in our country, near which the frize is manufactured, is about fourteen shillings. I buy the frize in the piece, which causes a material saving to the labourer. I generally have had them made and delivered to them about the beginning of winter. The month of October would be the best season, by which means they have the full benefit of

warm and close-grained cloth for winter, and its being a little thread-bare improves it for summer use.

I had first determined to appropriate the two-pence a day in the following manner....one penny to provide clothing....one halfpenny for provision for aged and sick labourers....one halfpenny for a stock-purse, to be divided once a year.

Any person adopting the principle, may adapt it to his own views of what is most beneficial to his labourers. Nothing, I conceive, is more important than clothing. Several boys in my employment have paid from fifteen to eighteen shillings for clothing; a blessing indeed it is to them in particular, as the parents in general would drive them into the field half naked, robbing their backs to glut their own stomachs. Your pages are of too much consequence, I presume, to admit of stating fully all the advantages attending this simple plan. To talk of the trouble of it, would be really ridiculous. Any person who gives the experiment a fair trial (if he has a warm feeling in his breast for the distresses of his fellow-men) will thank me for this communication, and you for giving it publicity.

PHILADELPHOS.

P. S. Should the account of the Maryborough Institution excite sufficient interest in the breast of any, to urge them to "go and do likewise," they can receive any further assistance and information, by writing (post paid) to the Secretary, at Maryborough.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

EXTRAORDINARY PROPHECY OF MERLIN'S, ON THE EVE OF BEING COMPLETED.

THE following curious letter was inserted in one of the London prints in the year 1801; it is now thought worthy of republication, because the principal event foretold in the prediction it contains, has every probability of coming to pass in the course of the month of October. Men of much eminence for judgment and learning have not hesitated to express astonishment at some of the articles contained in Merlin's prophecies; this one is perhaps as extraordinary as any of them. No person of sense will give way to superstition of any kind, and a little consideration will show that prophecies of this nature can form no rational guide for the direction of any man's conduct in any particular; it is only presented as a literary curiosity, and if we cannot account for the means by which Merlin seemed to dive into futurity, except by the old way of cutting the knot, it is but one wonder in common with hundreds, with which we are surrounded in the natural world, which the most profound philosophers could never unravel:

LETTER SIGNED OSIRIS.

"Being lately in a company where the conversation turned on the extraordinary appearance of the planets this year, all of which were to be seen at once on the northern side of the ecliptic, I set about to discover in old books of astronomy, whether such a phenomenon had been predicted or no. A friend of mine referred me to Merlin's prophecies, published by Hawkins, in the reign of Henry VIII. in which, he said, this circumstance was alluded to; but in terms so loose that nothing could be made of it, and which might be applied to any period of the reader's fancy, as well as the present. I found it accordingly in what are called Merlin's Centuries; and the passage seemed to me so curious, that I resolved to publish it, with such explanations as in my mind render it very intelligible, and strongly pointed to the commencement of the present century. Of this let others judge as they please: I here send you the whole passage referred to, in the very spelling of the time, as I transcribed it:

Three workend wekes in hondredes tould,
A dozeine whol and half biholde:
Ther comyth one off doutefulle size,
Quhom Albione shal heighly prize.
Though at fyrst dawne he chaunge her name,
And Islondes twane make bote one reaume;
Though derth and famyne rage withyn,
And gould and corn ben hardlie sene;
Withouten ben youre fame possess't,
Be North and Suth, and Est and West.

A daye is lost, a kingdome won.
Thir thynges happe fyrst: than 'spyeth Sunne,
North off hys rode, in spryngfulle game,
Hys children sporting wyth a ram.
Newe race to com fro Saxon shor,
Threde kinge doth gif fro credles fowre
He shal reboffe invader Dane.
A bluddy swurd, hys Golfe to staine,
That arm shal beare that bore a sheid,
And battles wyn wheir is noe feilde.
My sons, thynk on threde Edward's glorie;
Hys yeres agen ben tould in storie.
Newe clok off tyme tell three be three;
Agen come roiale jubiley!
Then dannoy th Tamys long hys stroude,
And merie daye hath auld Ynglonde.
Tyme's newe yere's sand nine torns shal see,
Com second skeptered jubilee!
Auld greye must then be chaunged to grene.
Loh! ther, agen a maydene Quene!

The above is all that is necessary for the present purpose. Now I beg the reader's attention to the following notes:

Three working weeks—The old bard is writing of centuries, and plainly describes the present, 19th.—Three weeks of six days each, in hundreds, make 1800, or a dozen and a half hundreds. After which, comes one

Of doubtful size—That is the present century; about the beginning of which, some wits would puzzle us during the whole of it, to find out when it began.

Though at first dawn—It opened with the union of Great Britain and Ireland, the two islands that make but one *realm*, or royalty. The scarcity of *gold and corn* raises a reflection too severe to be much dwelt upon. But we may with pride and pleasure agree with the Seer, in extending our national fame to all the four quarters of the globe; Denmark, Egypt, East and West Indies, readily satisfy those words, the first of which comes peculiarly in time now.

A day is lost—This line at first made me despair of discovering a proper application. I think, however, I have found it in the loss of the leap-year's day of last year; which in the ordinary course would have been a leap-year, but by the change of style became otherwise. The *kingdom won* is easily known, as abovementioned.

Then seeth the Sun—North, &c.—This very extraordinary position of *all* the planets, not excepting the Georgian, so as to be seen all at the same time in the North, can only refer to the present spring. As they are the attendants of the sun, they are properly called *his children*. Their *sporting with the Ram* is the present period when the sun is in *Aries*: for whether a planet be seen from the sun, or the sun from a planet, the effect is the same with regard to the sign of the Zodiac.

The *new race* from the Saxon shore, can be no other than the illustrious House of Brunswick. In Merlin's time the whole north of Germany was called Saxony.

Third king doth give from cradles four—This may to some appear mysterious, but it is very plain, if the last observation is just. *Cradle* among our ancestors was a word used metaphorically for descents, or generations; for the same cradle nursed all the children of the family. Now his majesty is the *fourth* in descent of this *new race*, and the *third* sovereign: his father having died when prince of Wales.

Invader Dane—What can these lines allude to but the late glorious news from the *Gulf* of these our ancient invaders! whose invasions terrified this whole island in Merlin's time; and the word *rebuff* may be aptly given to our present retaliation upon their own home. And by whose sword? The arm that bears it is said to have *borne a shield*. Here I must again dip into the Saxon customs. They described by *sword*-arm and *shield* arm, the right and left; and the conqueror alluded to (if my explanation is just) has only left a *shield arm* to wield this bloody sword that stained the Danish gulf.

Where is no field—The sea, the element of our victory.

Third Edward's glory—This part of the prophecy remains to be fulfilled, and may be worth all the rest, if it insures us (as I am willing to hope) a continuance of the life of our beloved sovereign to the extent of that of Edward III. We should hope, on this account, that every thing in the above description is really what it appears to be, a prophetic view of the present gene-

ration; which opinion may be entertained without impiety. The allusion I take to be to the famous *jubilee* proclaimed by Edward III. in the 50th year of his reign, when that great king, full of years and honour, was preparing to take leave of the world.

Time's new year's sand nine turns shall see—The above verses, in my explanation, describe the opening of the present century, nine years turns from which brings us to 1809. In that year, his majesty, if he live to the wishes of his subjects, will accomplish the *fiftieth year* of his reign, and may have a *second sceptered jubilee*. What follows, when *grey* (or age) is to be succeeded by *green* (or youth) I will not pursue; having arrived at the point I most earnestly wish for, and with which I shall be content. Some of your readers may perhaps remark, that the year alluded to is just one century beyond that of Swift's explanation of another prophecy of Merlin's; but with that I have nothing to do, further than to observe, that Dr. Johnson, in writing of it, says, that it cannot be read without amazement.

I am, sir, your constant reader,

OSIRIS.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN OF BALLYMENA.

SIR,

A RESIDENCE of eight days, in the town of Ballymena, enabled me to write the following account of it, which I now send you for insertion in your Miscellany, if you think it worthy of a place.

Ballymena is situated on a rising ground, about 21 miles N.W. of Belfast, it consists of four principal, and several smaller streets, and contains about 2500 inhabitants, the houses are built of stone, and have been lately very much improved.—It was formerly called *Kiln-hill-town*, and consisted originally of a few cabins and a kiln for drying corn; I observed two houses which are said to be very old, and are of very curious construction, one end of the front being built in the form of the gable end of a common house and containing a very old fashioned window. A market-house, was first built here in 1680; the present one, with a steeple of about 60 feet high, stands in the centre of the town, upon the site of the old one: here are three houses of worship, viz. a church, a presbyterian meeting-house, and a methodist house; the river Braid which rises in the Claggan mountains, about seven miles from the town, flows through it and joins the Main near Gracehill, it is well stocked with trout, dolochan, &c. near this is a Danish rath, now called the moat, from which is an excellent view of Mr. Adair's (the proprietor of the estate) house and demesne; the house is very poor, but in a good situation. I was told that a better one which stood here, was some years ago destroyed by fire. Here is an excellent weekly market for ¼ wide linens, cows, horses, &c. I have great pleasure in mentioning that it is in contemplation to have lamps erected in the different streets, and it is highly creditable to the inhabitants that they seem unanimous in their wishes for its accomplishment. R.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

WHEN an author comes forward to communicate to the public, what he calls discoveries or inventions; he is supposed to have taken his ground deliberately, and to have previously made himself acquainted with those inventions, that preceded his own in the same line; the less apology will therefore be due, for the following observations on a paper signed "*Job Rider*," which appeared in your Magazine for June last.

The hydrometer has hitherto been confined to *one* use, but this author has enumerated no less than *four* uses to which it is applicable, viz. "its accuracy in showing the specific gravity of fluids," second, "its use in showing the temperature, in the same manner as the thermometer," third, "how it may be made to act as a barosc pe;" and fourth, "how it is convertible into a barometer." "In the course of business I made an hydrometer, of which the ball

was two inches diameter, and the stem .02 of an inch diameter, and twelve inches long: by this instrument, I found the specific gravity of water sensibly changed, when only one ounce of alkaline salt was mixed with four hundred gallons of water."*

It is well known that hydrometers show the specific gravities of fluids, by displacing a quantity of each, equal in weight to the whole instrument; but whose bulks are equal only to the immerged parts thereof, and since those comparative bulks are shown on the stem, therefore the smaller the stem, the greater accuracy is the instrument capable of. But mere accuracy may be purchased too dear, if at the expense of every other good property of the instrument, as seems to be the case in this instance; for were it even practicable to divide, or mark with figures, the stem of an hydrometer one-fiftieth of an inch diameter (a thread of glass little thicker than a horse hair) who would submit to the trouble and caution necessary in using such an instrument? not to mention that its range would be so limited as to render it nearly useless in practice: for supposing the ball two inches in diameter, a globe of this dimension, would contoin 4,154 cubic inches; this bulk of common water, would weigh about 888 grains, this divided by 8 grains, the supposed weight of the stem, would give a quotient of 111, two fluids therefore whose specific gravities differed more than 111th part of that of the greater, could not be compared by this instrument.

The author informs us that having increased the heat of water from 50 to 75 degrees, he was surprized to find the above instrument sink in it, the whole length of the stem (12 inches) and thence concludes that as the instrument would serve for a hydrometer in different fluids with the same temperature, so also, it would act as a thermometer, in the same fluid, with different temperatures; but he shows no use or purpose, to which this *warm water thermometer* could be applied.

"When I reflected on the discovery I had now made, &c." there is no new discovery apparent here, for that fluids dilate with heat, condense with cold, is a discovery as old as the thermometer itself, since its invention must have been owing to a knowledge of this very principle.—Moreover it is a fact, well known to every dealer in spirits, that thermometers, accompanied with sliding rulers, to facilitate calculation, have long been in use, for the more accurate measurement of the strength of spirituous liquors.

"When I reflected on the discovery I had now made that this instrument rendered the degrees of heat and cold very conspicuous, by the specific gravity of the water being varied according to the temperature, the following idea occurred to my mind; if a large ball or glass bubble hermetically sealed, were placed on the top of the stem, S (see the figure) at *a*, and adjusted by balance so that the surface of the water might intersect the stem S, at C; after such adjustment, should the air become specifically heavier, the bubble would be moved upwards, and find its balance by moving more of the stem S, out of the water into the air; if the air became lighter the reverse would be the effect.

"In trying the experiment the result exactly agreed with the idea before mentioned, so that during the time the temperature remained the same, the instrument possessed all the properties of the baroscope, but in different temperatures and fluids, it contains the united properties of the *hydrometer*, *thermometer*, and *barometer*."

The usual mode of philosophizing, is to establish theory from experiment, but Mr. Rider has chosen a shorter course; in the true spirit of philosophical knight-errantry, he boldly erects a theory, and then roundly asserts that experiment "exactly agreed" with it.

The idea of making a glass balloon not only to float in air, but to

* In a note the author informs us, that this hydrometer was made of glass, it being less liable than metals to expand, or contract, with change of temperature.

have levity or buoyancy, sufficient to move upwards a hydrometer immersed in water, is certainly a very pretty conceit, and no one will deny it the merit of originality; pity that one trifling objection may be brought against it, which cannot be removed while glass continues to be specifically heavier than air, viz. that of *impossibility*.* How has it happened that an absurdity so glaring, should have escaped the notice of an "observing artist?"

But supposing this machine to possess all the three properties which its inventor fondly attributes to it, no small degree of ingenuity would be necessary to discover to what use it could be applied, unless attended by three other instruments to explain its meaning; for example, supposing the stem to have rose half an inch, or to have sunk as much, how could it be ascertained, whether such alteration has been owing to a change of density of the fluid, a change of temperature, or a change of density in the atmosphere; without having a hydrometer, thermometer, and barometer, to refer such alterations to?

The next thing that occurred to my my mind was, to discover how this instrument could be employed as a barometer only; this I effected by a small alteration, as follows:—" A tedious description may be saved here, by referring to the print, and stating that the alteration consists merely in removing the air baloon from the top of the stem, and attaching a small round bottle, with its open neck downwards to the bottom of the large bulb; If this instrument is held in a perpendicular position, when immersed in water, the small bottle will necessarily be partly filled with air, and partly with water; and we are told, that by careful adjustment in different temperatures, the quantities of air and water may be so proportioned to each other, that the instrument will neither sink with heat, nor rise with cold; but we are not informed by what means this adjustment is so perfectly made. The machine is now, neither a hydrometer, nor a thermometer, because the causes affecting it in those different capacities, are supposed completely to counteract each other. And as the inventor had imagined that the instrument, in its second stage of improvement, possessed three properties, and having destroyed two of them, he probably reasoned arithmetically, thus, *from three take two, and one remains;* and therefore concludes this instrument must now be an accurate barometer! The author proceeds: "But should the stem be too small, it cannot stand at any determined height; or, in other words, will not be a balance to the air at any height of the stem, because more water will go into the small ball, by its being depressed by the water's increasing depth, or pressure, than space taken up by the stem in going through the same space; and should it be too large, the space it will move through, from the variations of the atmosphere, will be but small. But when all its parts are duly proportioned and adjusted, it shows the minute barometrical changes of the atmosphere, more visibly than any instrument I have yet seen."

There is so much obscurity in the former part of this passage, that it were no easy task to develope the author's meaning: the probability is, however, that he means the direct contrary of what he expresses; for unquestionably, it is the *thickness*, and consequent *weight* of the stem, that would cause the instrument to sink, and receive more water, and not its smallness; since, *cæteris paribus*, the smaller and lighter the stem, the more steadily and upright will the instrument stand in any fluid in which it is immersed. Mr. Rider has also neglected to inform us, what those proportions were that rendered the instrument so perfect.

Since fluids press in all directions, in proportion to their depth, without any regard to their quantity, those minute changes which the author mentions, are partly owing to another cause, besides the atmospherical changes, and which are to be superadded thereto,

* Surely it is unnecessary to prove, that no glass baloon, whatever its size may be, could be made light enough to flont in air; for were it possible to make it as large as a church, still it must be heavier than the same bulk of common air, by the excess of the weight of the glass, shell, or covering, above the same dimensions of atmospheric air.

viz. the different depths to which the air bubble may be moved by the atmospherical changes; this, however, is rather advantageous than otherwise, since it encreases the motions, without altering their proportions.

The principle of showing the changes of the atmosphere, by a bubble of air under water, is not new, as this author seems to suppose; it was adopted by a Mr. Caswell, Dr. Hook, and others, early in the last century. The hint was perhaps taken from the machine of dancing figures, or little men, described in Gravensend's Elements of Natural Philosophy (see vol 1st. art. 462).

These little glass images are made hollow, and specifically lighter than water, and each has a small hole in one of its feet, by which water may enter; they are immersed in a tall glass receiver, nearly filled with water, and made air-tight, by means of a flaccid bladder tied over the top; by pressing on the bladder with the hand, the air under it is reduced to less space, the surface of the water will thereby be compressed, and water will be forced into the little figures, through the hole in their feet, which will cause them to descend, and when the pressure of the hand is removed, they will again rise, &c. The principle seems better adapted to a toy of this kind, than to a barometer.

A great variety of constructions of this instrument, have been from time to time invented, and most of them have had for their object the enlargement of the scale, or range of motion of the mercury, in the upright tube, from three inches (the usual range in this country) to almost any indefinite length.

Hence the contrivances of the diagonal barometer, and wheel barometer, &c. but it has been found from experience, that inaccuracy, arising from friction, &c. has always been increased in the same proportion, as the scale has been lengthened, and therefore they have all given place to the upright *Torricellian* tube, in every case where great accuracy is required, such as measuring the height of mountains, &c. for with the late improved constructions, if well executed, a verier scale can be applied, which will determine the heights of the mercury to the 1000th part of an inch; the use of which would be totally impracticable with any construction, where the changes are shown by a stem of glass, or of metal, rising out of water.

But there are other strong reasons why this instrument cannot be an accurate barometer.

1. Late experiments have proved, that water is at its greatest degree of condensation, at the temperature of 42½ degrees on *Fareinheit's* scale: therefore supposing it practicable, to adjust the proportions of air, and water in the small ball, perfectly to each other, at a temperature above 42½ degrees (which is very doubtful, as no means are pointed out for this purpose) yet the same adjustment would not serve for a temperature below the same degree: because the two qualities of the hydrometer and thermometer, which are opposed to each other, where the temperature is *above* 42½ degrees would coincide when *below* it; consequently a greater degree of cold would cause the bulb to sink, without any additional pressure of the atmosphere.

2. Air that is long confined under water, is found to change its elasticity, either from part of it being decomposed, or mixing with that contained in the water, and lastly the instrument must be totally useless during frost. If these remarks are well founded, it follows, that all this *airy* structure, which has cost the author so much pains to dedicate to fame, "vanishes like the baseless fabric of a vision and leaves not a wreck behind."

C. Fergus, July 30, 1809. MECHANICUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE INDUSTRIOUS POOR OF THE CLASS OF FIELD LABOURERS.

THE laudable endeavours which have been made in Belfast for the suppression of mendicity demand the gratitude of all its industrious inhabitants; and should be furthered by them in every possible way; the writer of this paper therefore with this view begs leave to communicate some

observations on this subject which occurred to him a considerable time ago, and which seem as yet to have escaped notice of others; and to propose a method of rendering the plan more universal and effectual for the abolition of mendicity, of which an account was given in the eleventh number.

The institutions which have hitherto been established for affording employment to the poor, have universally been for the preparation of various manufactures. Those who are unacquainted with the nature of manufactures are not sufficiently aware of the effect produced in them by the dexterity of the workman, from a sort of slight of hand, which can only be acquired by long practise, and, by many, in youth alone. The body of the manufacturer in a manner becomes formed for his work; the muscles most in action in it acquire a degree of strength and mobility, which no efforts of a beginner can attain, and which, after a certain age, it is next to an impossibility to acquire; for this reason the employment of the labouring poor in manufactures has ever seemed to the writer a misapplication of their labour; except in those cases where they had been brought up to them in their early years; and also that a waste of materials was caused at the same time by their unskilfulness, while the finished goods being inferior in quality to those produced by good workmen, could neither command so good a price or so ready a market. The part of those institutions which relate to the instruction of youth in manufacturing various articles of utility may seem to be free from the chief of these objections; but it is evident that youth would learn their trades more completely as apprentices to masters in the usual way, than in the precincts of a work house, and that, therefore, the latter plan should be only used as a supplement to the former. In many trades, masters are so sensible of the advantages of a choice of workmen that small fees will induce them to take as many apprentices as they can employ, and it would therefore be an object worthy the consideration of the proposed society to complete whether they could not provide for a greater number of poor children with the same funds by apprenticing them to approved masters, than by teaching them in a work-house: in this account the saving of expence in buildings and of capital in manufactures having its due estimate, there appears little doubt that the former method would be cheaper as well as more eligible, as well for the reasons stated as for many others that may be suggested. In establishing manufactures as a means of providing for the poor, a point of material importance in the business seems taken for granted without any sufficient warrant; which is, that there is such a ready market for the articles to be produced, that the number of workmen may be encreased to advantage; but a little inquiry will show that this is far from being the case; the successful policy of Napoleon has so effectually cut off the demand for British manufactures on the Continent, that there is a great surplus on hands, of every kind of them, which will be poured into this country at a price sufficiently disadvantageous to our own manufacturers, without adding to the evil by bringing articles of a forced nature into competition with them. The remedy for this evil, which has been most tried, is in fact but an aggravation of it, which is to force a sale for articles brought thus to market beyond the demand, by appeals to the compassion of the public. It requires but small penetration to see the error of this system, for it is plain that as much of those articles as is purchased from the charitable institution, so much less must be purchased from the regular manufacturers, who being thus obliged to diminish the quantity they are used to furnish, must cease to give employment to a proportional number of hands, who will thereby be thrown on public charity for a subsistence, and surely that expedient which evidently encreases the disease it was intended to cure, demands little to prove its inadequacy and fallaciousness.

Belfast has one advantage in providing for the female part of its poor, which few other places possess, which is that from its being in the centre

of the linen manufacture, the most of the women of the lower orders, have learned to spin linen yarn sufficiently well to earn a subsistence with a little assistance; some of the male poor may also be found who know how to weave, but it is probable that more good might be done by hiring looms to the latter, and wheels to the former, with a loan of a small matter to purchase materials for work, at a low interest with an open for a final purchase of the implements by a small weekly deposit, which method would prevent fraudulent people from taking the implements in order to sell them, instead of using them for work, which it is to be feared would be too often the case if they were given free of expense to those who applied for them; but though more might be employed in Belfast without injury to the regular manufacturer than in most other places, yet still there is a very numerous class of the poor who have only been accustomed to field labour; which any plan of manufacture could employ but in a wasteful manner, and with much misapplication of labour, for the reasons before stated.

To point out a method of providing employment for people of this description is the chief object of this paper, and which at the same time that it would effect this purpose, would also facilitate the maintenance of that portion of the poor, who would be employed to greater advantage in the workhouse in branches of manufacture, at which *they had been accustomed to work*, and at which *they had attained considerable skill*.

Those desirable objects, it appears to the writer, might be easily obtained, by renting ten or more acres of land, within a few miles of the town to be cultivated entirely by manual labour in garden culture, by such of the paupers as had only been used to field labour, assisted by such of the others, who from unskilfulnes or any other cause, could not be employed at their trades to advantage, and by those of them whose health might be benefited by an occasional change from sedentary confinement, to the envigorating and healthful occupations of horticulture in the open air.

A considerable portion of this ground should be of course devoted to the culture of potatoes, for the food of the people; carrots, turnips, and cabbages should be also raised both for this purpose and for sale; together with onions, pease, beans and such other vegetables as would fetch the best price at the market of Belfast for the surplus after the institution was supplied.

Perhaps other vegetables of a different nature might be cultivated to advantage in the same manner. Weld, woad and other articles for the use of dyers might thus be raised, and probably after a time, when money enough could be spared for the purchase of poles and other necessaries, hops might also be grown to considerable profit, which many experienced judges think, would thrive well in this country, and would certainly escape much of the ravages from insects, which those grown in England experience, as many of the insects most destructive to hops are found but in trifling numbers here. Hogs might also be fattened on the offal of the garden to considerable advantage.

The articles of culture would of course be determined by a committee of the directors of the institution for the relief of the industrious poor, and under them a skilful gardener should be employed to direct the detail of the necessary operations.

It is by no means necessary that the ground should be very close to Belfast; some situation on the canal would be the best for it, on account of the facility it would afford for procuring manure, and for the conveyance of articles to market at a cheap rate, and any place between Belfast and Lisburn, where ground could be procured on the lowest terms, would be sufficiently near for the purpose.

In many charitable institutions large sums have been expended on buildings which might have been laid out to much better advantage, in providing for a greater number of those who were the proper objects of it. The sums which have been lavished in this way at Greenwich Hospital, at Guy's, and Bar-

tholemew's Hospitals in London, are so great, that the reflection must deprive most to whom it might occurr, of the pleasure which the magnificence of those buildings would otherwise occasion. After a necessary attention has been paid to durability, it is evident that cheapness of construction in buildings of this nature, should be considered as a primary object. It would therefore be worth while to determine, whether slated cottages could not be raised at a cheaper rate, for the accommodation of a greater number of people at the rural establishment proposed, than any other species of building; and if a number of stories, should, on the contrary, be proved cheaper, then to determine whether much might not be saved by laying the floors with plaster (gypsum) instead of board, as is practised in Derbyshire and Staffordshire; (for which materials might be obtained at a cheap rate from the gypsum quarries in the neighbourhood of Belfast) or to lay them with large square tiles, in the same manner as is done at Paris. It would also be worth consideration, whether cast iron might not be substituted for wood to advantage, in the principle supports of the roofs, while timber is at the present high price. The opinion of many good judges is in favour of this measure, and a very ingenious gentleman of Birmingham (Mr. Norton) has lately taken a patent for a mode of doing this, which he asserts he can prove to be cheaper than constructing a roof of wood.

Enough has been written on the subject of food for the poor, by Sir Benjamin Thomson (perhaps better known by the name of Count Rumford, as preferring the latter title, though for reasons which are not very obvious) to render any thing on this head almost superfluous. It may not, however, be amiss, to remind the gentlemen who may have the management of such an institution, of an error which was made on this point at the House of Industry in Dublin, in feeding people on wheaten bread, who had all their lives before been used to live on oaten bread, or potatoes instead of it. Many physicians are of opinion that potatoes do not afford sufficient nourishment by themselves; but granting this, which however seems very doubtful, it is certain the deficiency might be made up in a much cheaper manner, by soups, prepared by some of the excellent receipts of the above author, or perhaps by a proper allowance of milk, than by any quantity of wheat bread, at its usual price.

Many particulars would have to be considered in detail, besides those mentioned, in carrying a plan of this nature into execution; but the gentlemen who would have to superintend the business here, on account of their superior local knowledge, could best arrange matters of this nature; and indeed in this respect Belfast has considerable advantage; for in few towns in the kingdom can a greater number of liberal and enlightened gentlemen be found, more capable of directing such an institution in the best manner.

It might appear after this assertion, that advice to gentlemen of this description is superfluous, and what is here written might be spared; but there is no certainty that the same thoughts will occur to the best informed minds, as might to others, perhaps not so well prepared; and perhaps something may occur in those pages, which may be found of essential utility, when properly matured by competent judges. At all events, what has been written, proceeds alone from a desire to do good; and as it was well intended, it is hoped it will be so considered. J. W. B.

Belfast, Sept. 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SURRY INSTITUTION.

THIS Institution is for the same purposes as the Royal Institution of London: lectures are given at the buildings belonging to it, on various branches of science and literature with considerable ability, and a good library is provided for the use of the members.

Institutions of this nature are becoming every year more general in England, and promise fair to diffuse a taste for the sciences, which no doubt, will, in many instances, produce that degree of information capable of extending and improving the general state of knowledge. The example of England, will, we hope, be followed by Ireland in this respect. It will indeed be in some degree necessary; for the common forms

of Education will soon be insufficient to furnish the information fit for the general intercourse of polished society. A gentleman will be always expected to be better informed than the labouring classes, and if he is not, will meet with some unpleasant sensations of inferiority in company, that every manly spirit would wish to avoid; and mere capability of reading and writing will soon cease to be a distinction; for the new discoveries of methods by which these primary acquirements can be taught to great numbers of children at once at a very trifling expense, will in a few years most probably make this small portion of learning universal among the lowest ranks of society.

The apartments of the Surry Institution, consist of two elegant and convenient rooms for reading newspapers, pamphlets, and periodical works. A square room for the reception of the large philosophical apparatus. A most superb circular anti-room for containing the smaller apparatus, fitted up in the style of an open Grecian temple, between the columns of which are an assemblage of bronze statues, representing the Fathers of Science and Literature, such as Homer, Bacon, Locke, Newton, Barrow, Franklin, &c. &c. This opens to a square anti room, which leads on the right to a conversation-room and to the laboratory, which latter has been fitted up under the immediate direction of Mr. Knight, of Foster lane, and is allowed by good judges to be at once convenient, compact, and elegant. On the left of this anti-room is the library, near sixty feet long, and twenty-four feet high, with a gallery on three sides, to which there is an easy access by a flight of safe steps: the centre opening of this square anti-room leads directly to the lecture-room or theatre, which we venture to announce one of the most complete and elegant of its size in the metropolis; it is a circular building, and consists of an amphitheatre, of eighteen rows of seats, an under and an upper gallery, the latter of which is supported by eight pillars, composed of Derbyshire spar, and crowned round the dome by a ballustrade of British marble, the whole of which was erected by the late proprietor, Mr James Parkinson, at an expense of upwards of five hundred guineas.

It has been well observed in the prospectus of this Institution, that, "Public Literary Institutions are the highest ornament of a state," and it surely must be a source of high gratification and exultation to the inhabitants of the metropolis, when they reflect that their fellow creatures in almost every other nation in Europe are mourning amidst the smoaking ruins of their cities, towns, and villages, they are peaceably proceeding in the paths of science, and through the wonderful works of nature, illustrated and rendered familiar by numerous experiments in this place, and are looking with increased reverence and adoration up to Nature's God.

It would be unjust to the present lecturer on experimental philosophy and chemistry at this Institution, not give him the praise of a popular and manly eloquence, and of conducting his various and impressive experiments with great precision, and considerable originality.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE JOHN FOTHERGILL, M.D.F.R.S.

Continued from No. 13, *p.* 125.

BUT in the summer, there are much fewer residents in the metropolis, and in proportion still less sickness; prevented, therefore, as he was, by the mutual influence of his fame, and of his sensibility, from the enjoyment of any relaxation at Upton, (whither, if he went, messages frequently intercepted him) he chose to retreat, for a few weeks, at this salubrious season of the year to Lea-Hall, in Cheshire, a seat belonging to the Leicester family, about 15 miles from Warrington, where two of his brothers resided in the year

1765, when he first sought this secluded spot.

Men who have sedulously attended to the profits of trade, and who by industry and penury are enabled to retire on their fortunes, are more generally objects of compassion than of envy: if they live, it is to themselves; for want of early and rational cultivation of the mind, they have acquired one solitary, sordid idea, and when they have placed themselves out of the enjoyment of it, life becomes a burthen, and retirement painful. It was not so with Doctor Fothergill; he had numerous important duties to discharge, which incessant occupation in town had obliged him to defer: here he attempted to lessen the applications of the wealthy, who followed him for his advice, by refusing any gratuity; they had it in their power to apply elsewhere: the poor he never relinquished; and in this place of retreat he devoted one day in the week, to attend at Middlewich, the next market town, and to give his advice gratis to them without hesitation.

From his garden at Upton, he sent duplicates of plants to Lea-hall, and there revived and extended horticulture, where it had long lain dormant. Here he arranged his medical observations; for which his memory will be respected, as long as fact and rational experiment direct the professors of the healing art. From hence he maintained a communication with most parts of the civilized world:

It would be difficult to trace his pen through all the various subjects of utility on which it was employed, during the time, which was about two months, that he appropriated to leisure in his annual retreat into Cheshire: he has wrote six hours in the day successively, and he seldom wrote but for private information or public instruction: even his journies into the country, and his returns to the city, presented some striking observations to his inquisitive mind, that afforded improvement in agriculture, or useful reflections on life and manners.

With North America his correspondence was extensive; his name was dear to the inhabitants: his father had thrice traversed that Continent in the service of religion; and his brother Samuel, whose memory I deeply reverence, had followed the pious example of their once venerable parent. Many families, from the fame of his medical skill, crossed the Atlantic, to place themselves under his care; by such opportunities he gratified his inquisitive mind, and acquired a minute acquaintance with the disposition of the inhabitants, and the qualities of their soil, which enabled him to suggest various improvements in horticulture, rural economy, agriculture, and commerce. With his friend Peter Collinson, he encouraged the cultivation of the vine, with the introduction of such exotic vegetables as might be usefully transplanted to different regions of that extensive continent: he laboured, with others, for a series of years, and at length successfully, to abolish the slave trade among their own brethren: no man valued personal liberty with more commendable enthusiasm, and few exerted their influence more strenuously for it, in favour of the miserable captives of Africa. On the North American continent, negro slavery will be gradually annihilated; but in the West India islands, where there are few Europeans, and where the heat, which is intense, conduces to indolence, the traffic of rational beings is pursued with vigour, and will probably be continued till the pecuniary interests of Europeans can be diverted into another channel. To effect this, he suggested the cultivation of the sugar-cane upon the continent of Africa, where it seems to have been indigenous, and thrives luxuriantly; and that the natives should be employed as servants for hire, and not as slaves compelled to labour by the dread of torture. Such a plan, indeed, was formerly suggested by one of the most powerful princes of Guinea. After the king of Dahome had conquered the kingdom of Whidah, in the year 1727, he was so bent upon the execution of his plan, as to send Bulfinch Lambe, his prisoner, whom he had loaded with favours, to the court of great Britain, to engage its commerce and support. Upon this occasion, he presented his ambassador

with eighty slaves, and 320 ounces of gold to Bear his expenses, and to induce him to return; but Lambe, after he had possession of so much wealth, settled in Barbadoes, and never reached Europe, or further interested himself in the project of his generous benefactor. The richness of the soil, the plenty of provisions, the convenience of carriage, and many other considerations, strongly support the opinion of cultivating the cane on the African continent.

A man who could thus act with a principle of tenderness which realized the Roman precept, *Homo sum, et nihil humani à me alienum puto,* could not be insensible to the near and social endearments of friendship: a physician, in particular, whose time and powers are devoted to restoring health to his fellow-creatures, removing grief and misery, and substituting comfort and happiness, must naturally have his mind humanized to the most tender sensibilities, and animated with those joys which nature annexes to the power of doing good; his regard to his friends is expressed with officious and watchful care, and is returned with those lenient endearments which constituted unaffected friendship, and those felicities of life, which remove or soften its pains.

A mind actuated by sentiments of amity, could not be deficient in actions of beneficence. Introduced by his profession into scenes which equally excite sympathy, and demand succour, he was ever accessible to distress. To the inferior clergy Dr. Hird gives the following examples of his generous philanthropy, whom he considered as more particularly the objects of his liberality and attention: "Being brought up in that line of education, which, in the opinion of the world, precludes bodily labour, and to which the idea of the gentleman is annexed, without a competency to support the character; to many of these, I am an evidence he was a kind friend and a private benefactor; not only by his advice in personal distress, but by his purse on severely trying occasions.—Nay, so cordial was his humanity towards these, that, on a friend's hinting to him, whilst he was in the country, that his favours were not marked by propriety of distinction (the gentleman from whom he had refused his fee being placed in high rank in the church, with an independent fortune) he returned a ready explanation of his principle of action: "I had rather," said the Doctor, "return the fee of a gentleman with whose rank I am not perfectly acquainted, than run the risk of taking it from a man who ought perhaps to be the object of my bounty." Such was the noble style of this most excellent man's way of thinking.

"The humane reader will feel the finest springs of his affections moved by the following anecdotes, given me by a clergyman of high rank, who reveres the memory of Dr. Fothergill, and places his obligations to him, in a very trying season, near to his heart. A friend of his, a man of a worthy character, who has at this time an income of about one hundred pounds a year, church preferment, was, in the early part of his life, seated in London upon a curacy of fifty pounds per annum, with a wife and a numerous family. An epidemical disease, which was at that time prevalent, seized upon his wife, and five of his children: in this scene of distress his heart was instantly turned to the Doctor, but dared not apply for his assistance, from a consciousness of his being unable to reward him for his attendance. A friend, who knew his situation, kindly offered to accompany him to the Doctor's, and give him his fee: they took advantage of his hour of audience, and after a description of the several cases, the fee was offered, and refused; but a note was taken of his place of residence. The Doctor called assiduously the next, and every succeeding day, till his attendance was no longer necessary. The curate, anxious to return some grateful mark of the sense he entertained of his services, strained every nerve to accomplish it; but his astonishment was not to be described, when, instead of receiving the money he offered, with apologies for his situation, the Doctor put ten guineas into his hand, desiring him to apply to him without diffidence in future difficulties.

"Although, amidst the diffusion of his favours, he too frequently met

with ungrateful returns, yet he could never allow instances of this sort to check the ardour of his mind in doing all the good he could to others; and even to those who returned ingratitude for kindness, his charity continued still patient, hoping all things. It was his common expression, when he found his favours misapplied, or himself imposed upon, "I had much rather that my favours should fall upon many undeserving objects, than that one truly deserving should escape my notice."

There is a condition of people, whose distresses are much greater than are generally imagined, and whose patience under suffering makes them less conspicuous, though no less deserving of protection, than the importunate poor. They have known better days, and consequently feel more poignantly the reverse of their condition; their reluctancy in complaining, often reduces them very low in health and spirits before they are discovered, and thereby disease is accumulated upon want. From the retreats of anxiety flow an infinitude of bodily distresses; of this he was tenderly sensible; and while this modest indigence interested his sympathy, it had access to his bounty, in such a manner as was most likely to blunt the acuteness of distress; for obligations are more grateful from the manner in which they are conferred, than from their magnitude. To preclude the necessity of acknowledgment in such minds, he endeavoured to suggest some motive for his bounty, that might afford the receiver the merit of a claimant, and the liberal donor that of discharging a debt: after prescribing for such individuals, he remembered that there is such a distemper as hunger, in the catalogue of human infirmities, and not unfrequently conferred his bounty under the pretence of defraying the expense of their medicines; for that charity which is not exercised to make usury of fame, silently diffuses the oil of gladness over the troubled commotions of the heart, and enjoys the private retreat of unmixed happiness.

Captain Carver's is a name known in the annals of misery, to which he was reduced by long continued want: disease, its natural consequence, gave him access to Dr. Fothergill; and I am informed by his widow, that as often as he applied for medical relief, the Doctor as often accompanied his prescription with a liberal donation. But Captain Carver was not an importunate solicitor, the mind not hardened by familiarity of refusal, or that hath not acquired, by frequent struggles, the art of suppressing its emotions, possesses that diffidence which is the inseparable associate of worth. Betwixt diffidence and want, many were the struggles of Captain Carver; but, overcome at length by the repeated acts of the Doctor's generosity, a jealous suspicion of becoming troublesome to his benefactor, determined him to prefer that want, and the deprivation of the necessaries of life, which put him out of the power of choice; for death soon triumphs over famine.—What a conflict of sullen greatness does this tragedy exhibit! When his fate was communicated to the Doctor, how tender was his expression! "If I had known his distress, he should not thus have died!"

At the approach of the severe winter of 1767, Dr. Fothergill proposed a scheme, and liberally contributed to raise a fund for ensuring its success, to purchase fish at a wholesale cheap price, and to dispose of them at a small loss, till the whole subscription was expended, for the benefit of the poor and middle ranks of house-keepers. The society, who supported this scheme, which was continued to the year 1770, in the same manner purchased potatoes in Lancashire, or other cheap markets, and conveyed them by water to the metropolis, where there is more poverty, as well as more wealth, than in any other part of the kingdom; and, to countenance this diet, he purchased from the ware-houses, opened for the sale of these articles, the provisions of his own table, once at least a week.

To render bread much cheaper to the poor, though equally as wholesome as the best wheaten, Dr. Fothergill proposed a method of making it

with one part of potatoes, and three parts of household flour; and to encourage its use, he caused proper directions to be distributed among the bakers and others in the city.

A cause of destruction, almost peculiar to great cities, is the mode of interment of the bodies of the dead, and particularly those of the poor; and which is still continued in this metropolis. In some burying-grounds, the graves are made sufficiently wide to contain three or four wooden coffins abreast, and deep enough to hold twice as many in depth: these pits, after each burial, are covered with a few loose boards, and a little mould, to hide the coffin from common view; but they are never filled up till the whole complement of corpses has been interred. When this is done, a second grave is opened upon the same plan, close to the first, leaving the sides of the former coffins still exposed; by which means these wholesale receptacles of the dead become so offensive, as frequently to oblige the ministers, and others upon funeral duty, to stand at a considerable distance, to avoid the stench arising from them. The insalubrity of such a practice is confirmed by the testimonies of many writers.* It was what Dr. Fothergill uniformly discouraged; and, to supply the defect of burying-places within the city, he proposed the site of Moor-fields, as lying on the north side of the town; southern winds being more sultry, and likely to convey to the inhabitants any noxious exhalations, the diffusion of which, it is well known, northern winds tend rather to check than promote. That this, however, might be executed with decent elegance, he formed the idea of constructing cemeteries in this large space of ground, formed into distinct regular rows, suitable for every degree of citizens, and appropriated to families in the same manner as vaults in general are.

In large communities vice has ever abounded, though the wisest legislators have used endeavours to prevent and restrain it, by the encouragement of industry, and by the infliction of punishments on the commission of crimes. Liberty, the birth-right of man, the possession of which he cannot be too solicitous to maintain, has, in most states, been denied to criminal members of society; and, in some instances also, where the breach of social regulations has been the effect of unavoidable misfortune, rather than of actual vice: it has, however, always been the wish of humanity, that punishments could be so applied, as to be strictly adequate to the degrees of offence. Certain it is, that the indiscriminate confinement of many persons together, is productive of two unhappy inconveniences; the first, as it affects the body, by generating infectious diseases; and the other, as it contaminates the mind, by hardening the vicious, and by their example, depraving those not already abandoned. All Europe is acquainted with the benevolent, the godlike exertions of Howard, whose memory will ever be dear to the miserable tenant of a prison, and to whose labours that elegant statesman, Burke, has borne the most honourable testimony.

This Howard was the intimate friend of Dr. Fothergill; they were the friends of humanity; and both were employed in lessening the miseries of human life, though in different spheres; but in attempting to prevent those injuries and diseases which human contagion produces, they united their labours. The legislature, justly alarmed at repeated instances of infection which prisoners disseminated in court

* I have known instances of the hospital fever, says Sir John Pringle, beginning in a ward, when there was no other cause but one of the men having a mortified limb. Diseases of the Army.

He adds, amongst the causes of malignant fevers, burials within the towns, and the bodies not laid deep. Ibid.

Forestus says, he was an eye-witness to a plague which arose from the same cause.

Diodorus Siculus observes, that the putrid steams arising from the bodies of those who lay unburied, was one of the causes of that dreadful distemper that broke out among the Carthaginians at the siege of Syracuse. And numerous other authors attest the same facts.

when brought before their judges, was disposed to receive the best advice for obviating such baneful effects. Dr. Fothergill and his friend were desired to attend the House of Commons; before which they gave such information, as induced the legislature to pass a bill, intitled, "An Act for preserving the health of prisoners in gaol, and preventing the gaol distemper," anno 1774; and afterwards to recommend the building of detached, or penitentiary houses, as a mode of punishment calculated to restrain indolence and vice. These two distinguished persons, with George Whatley, esq. were appointed, by the king, Commissioners for directing suitable buildings to carry into execution this new system of correction.

To obviate, however, and repress the first eruptions of vicious propensity, is an object of the greatest importance to the welfare and happiness of the community. In some instances, more might be effected by lenient means than by severe punishments: one begets gratitude, and a desire to retrieve reputation; the other hardens the mind, excites the passions of revenge and cruelty, and confirms a more abandoned profligacy of conduct. There are even vices, which seem to vibrate from a false shame, or mistaken integrity: the impoverished husband, upon whom the sustenance of a family depends, may privately steal, or boldly rob, from the cogency of domestic sensibility, without any vicious design to injure another: and such individuals are not irreclaimable; for such, to my knowledge, have been reclaimed.

> In vitium ducit culpæ fuga——
> Hor. Ars Poet. l. xxxi.

But the most effectual barrier against corruption of manners, and the influence of vicious example, is an early and guarded education. As the sun is to the external, so is learning to the intellectual eye; it enables the mind to distinguish truth from error, endows it with stability and strength to combat vicious propensities, and renders it susceptible of enjoying the felicities of life, without adopting its follies, or entailing its miseries. For the promotion of this useful education, Dr. Fothergill was a liberal advocate.

He was chosen, in 1754, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, as he had early been of the Medical Society* instituted there,

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* Near fifty years ago, several students of medicine formed this society, for their mutual instruction and advancement in their studies. "Every student of a certain standing, who distinguished himself by his diligence, capacity, and conduct, was initiated into this little assembly. Here the opinions of the ancients, of their contemporaries, nay the doctrines of their masters, were frequently discussed; and two of the members were always charged with the task of providing instruction and entertainment for the next meeting of the society. Questions, no doubt, were here disputed and decided, which long experience would have declined. But it exercised their faculties, gave them both sides of arguments, taught them to doubt, and habituated them to observation." Dr. Fothergill's life of Dr. Russel, page 432 in this edition of his works.

When one considers the utility, as well as high reputation of a society, begun and conducted by students, curiosity is naturally excited to date the commencement of this singular and useful institution; which I am enabled to do, by the information of one of its first and most respectable members. In the latter end of August 1734, a number of gentlemen, then fellow students in the schools of medicine at Edinburgh, who had been long familiarly acquainted, and entertained a reciprocal regard for each other, after having employed themselves, during the three preceeding weeks, in the dissection of a body in the Anatomical Theatre, agreed to spend a social evening together at a tavern. After supper it was proposed, by one of the company, that this little society should meet once a fortnight, early in the evening, at their respective lodgings; that a dissertation, in English or Latin, on some medical subject, at the choice of the society, should be composed, and read at each of these meetings, to which such objections as occurred to the rest of the company should be made, which the author was to obviate in the best manner he could. This proposal was cordially assented to by all present; and Dr. *Cuming* was appointed by the other members to prepare a dissertation for their first meeting, on the signs, causes, and method of cure of the *Rubies Canina*: this he accordingly did, and read to the society on

and since incorporated by royal authority; and in 1763, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London; and was one of the earliest members of the American philosophical society, instituted at Philadelphia.

Thus conspicuous as a physician in the first city in Europe, his character could not but be known on the continent, where science is cultivated with the same commendable ardour: Linnæus, the late botanical luminary of Upsal, had distinguished a species of Polyandria Digynia by the name of Fothergilla Gardeni. In 1776 he was chosen an honorary member of the royal society of medicine at Paris; for men of true science, of every nation, in the tumult of empires, are united in endeavouring to render mankind wiser and happier; they are always of one party; and the French, whose literary exertions reflect honour on the nation and on the age, instituted in 1776, a royal medical society; and, to render it more extensively beneficial, they have chosen honorary or corresponding members from the ingenious of all nations.

With respect to political affairs, as connected with those of North America during the revolutionary war, he had long formed a decided opinion. "Whether we look at the well-being and content of near two millions of English subjects on that continent, descended from and connected with ourselves; or weigh the effects which their discontent and unhappiness must unavoidably produce on this country, scarce a more important object can present itself to an Englishman."

Without entering into the causes and effects of this contest, it was from its commencement the strenuous advice of Dr. Fothergill, to treat our Trans-atlantic brethren with a leniency due to fellow-subjects, whose rights and privileges being the same, entitled them to share in the prosperity and the enjoyments of the whole empire. "If we inquire," he observed, "into the conduct of the wisest states to their distant colonies, we shall find it always to have been, to treat them with kindness and indulgence, to engage them to look back to the mother country with duty and affection, and to recompense the protection they have enjoyed by the produce of their labours, their commerce, and, when needed, their assistance. We meet not with many instances, comparatively, even of distant conquered countries revolting, till causes of strong disgust had sown the seeds of discontent, and succeeding acts of oppression and injustice had ripened them into rebellion."

"Colonies sprung from Britain," he observed, "will bear much: but it is to be remembered, that they are the sons of freedom; and what they have been early taught to look upon as virtue in their ancestors, will not soon be forgotten by themselves: nay, they will the sooner be apt to vindicate their wrongs."

As he was of opinion, that whatever the motives of their migration may have been, the effects of this migration have undoubtedly been signally beneficial to this country; and therefore, if any distinction were to be made, a particular distinction was due to these distant subjects, whilst harsh and ungracious treatment would make them desirous of forgetting that they are of English descent, lessen their duty and allegiance, and induce them impatiently to look forward to that independency, which their situation favours; and this the more eagerly, in proportion to the prejudices they have imbibed against a government they think oppressive.

Unfortunately for this country, those measures which the Americans deemed oppressive, were eagerly pursued; and what Dr. Fothergill, and most men who were acquainted with the

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the 20th of December following. *Dr. Russel* followed in one, *De Gonorrhœa virulenta*: then came *D. Cleghorn, De Epilepsia*; *Kennedy, De Fluxu Mensium*, &c. This association continued during that winter, and the ensuing spring; but, in the summer of 1735, the members of this little society were dispersed, and *Cleghorn* alone remained to continue, with his respected Fothergill and some others, this association during the subsequent winter. This was the humble and fortuitous commencement of a society, that has since become highly respectable by its obvious utility, and the names of many learned and eminent physicians which it records in the list of its members, and it is now incorporated by Royal Charter.

Continent and its inhabitants, early predicted, he lived to see realized.

Uniform as he was in opinion respecting the political objects which so long convulsed the empire, he was either misrepresented or not understood. He was so accurately informed of the power of America, and with the wishes of some of the principal of its inhabitants, that, long before the fatal transaction at Lexington, he foretold, as probable consequences of the projected measures, many of the great events which time has since evolved. If a man is censurable for the accomplishment of his predictions, Dr. Fothergill was certainly so; but were such reasoning admissible, all the great characters of sacred and general history, whom we have been hitherto accustomed to reverence, must fall under a similar predicament: if their sagacity, or their superior information, had enlarged their views, and enabled them with precision to estimate the result of certain actions, the rulers to whom they communicated their observations, and who, possessing the power, but being perhaps otherwise informed, did not take adequate precautions to prevent what had been foretold, have been deemed answerable for the event. No man laboured more anxiously than Dr. Fothergill did, to prevent what he predicted as eventual from the prosecution of certain measures—the dismemberment of the empire.

As he had access, by his profession, to families of the first distinction, he embraced occasional opportunities of suggesting his opinion of the prevailing system of politics, and the effects most likely to result from the prosecution of it.

To be continued.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. Joseph Cuff of White-Chapel, London, Cheesemonger, for machinery for more easy and expeditious slaughtering of hogs, bullocks and other cattle; dated August, 1808.

MR. CUFF'S apparatus for the more expeditious slaughtering of cattle, consists of a vertical frame divided into a number of spaces of the breadth of the cattle, like so many troughs arranged beside each other, in an upright position; above these, and in the same line with them, is placed a horizontal beam by which the cattle are to be drawn up, on this beam a ring is placed so as to traverse its whole length as desired, to which a pully and tackle are fastened, through which a cord passes to a small windlass at one end of the building; the animals to be slaughtered are driven into a pen in front of this apparatus, and are in succession, fastened to a hook at bottom of one of the divisions, by a short rope looped at each end over iron thimbles, which passes round one or both of the hind legs. The tackle is then lowered, a man in the pen, hooks it to the looped rope, and another man at the windlass winds the beast up to the desired height, when a boy standing on the top of the divisions puts the other eye of the looped rope over a hook above the frame, frees the tackle, shifts the ring from which it is suspended to the next division, and lowers it to raise the next beast, in the mean time the man in the pen, lets out the blood of the beast first raised, by cutting the arteries of its neck in the usual manner;—and these operations are repeated with each beast successively till the whole number is slaughtered.

Remarks....Since we are under the necessity of using the flesh of animals for our sustenance, we must submit to overcome the repugnance which all must feel in depriving them of life; but then we are the more bound to do this in the least painful manner to the animal, and to avoid every species of cruelty in the act. This does not seem to have

been sufficiently attended to, in Mr. Cuff's method of slaughtering, for certainly the animals must suffer great pain in being drawn up by the hind legs into the divisions of the frame; which though it is not of long duration, yet should not be inflicted: we should therefore recommend, that when Mr. Cuff's apparatus is used, the animals before they are hoisted up, after being attached to the bottom of the division, should be pithed, as it is called, by dividing the spinal marrow near the head, with a a small strong knife, inserted between the vertebræ of the neck.

Mr. Cuff's apparatus might be found useful at Belfast, Waterford, Cork, and our other towns where great numbers of cattle are slaughtered; though we speak of this with some doubt, for the great strength of oxen would enable them to do much mischief to the other cattle, while the operation of hoisting first commenced. The process described could not be used for hogs, at least in the order mentioned, because their skins must be either singed or scalded to get the hair off, and it would answer no purpose to hoist them up into the divisions before this was done.

Patent of Mr. Thomas Wells, of Erdington, Warwick, for an improved method of constructing Barrel-cocks, and Water-cocks, dated June 1809

The description given in the specification, of this improvement on water cocks, is contained in the following words.

"The superior excellence, of these cocks, depends on the construction of that part of the cock, which contains the plug or key, and is called the barrel, so that it cannot leak, and that no liquor can pass through it except when the key or plug is turned for that purpose. This is accomplished, by making grooves in the inside of the barrel of about the eighth of an inch deep, and filling up the grooves with leather, hat (felt) or any thing else of a similar nature, that will absorb the wet. The number or direction of the grooves is not material."

A drawing accompanies the specification representing a section of the barrel of a cock divided by four vertical grooves, and two annular grooves of the kind above described one above and the other below the aperture.

Remarks....The statement of the Patentee, "that the position and number of the grooves is not material," is evidently not correct. A little reflection will show that the number of them, and their position, represented in the drawing, as above mentioned, is essential to prevent leakage; the annular stuffings preventing the liquor passing upwards or downwards through the barrel of the cock, and the vertical ones preventing its passing through the vent: two vertical grooves might perhaps secure it, and though a greater number could not make it less staunch, yet this number is at least necessary.

It would seem that the purpose would be answered equally well by making the grooves in the plug as in the barrel, which would have the advantage of being more easily effected, and would also admit of having the stuffing applied with more firmness, and with more facility.

It is an object of considerable consequence to breweries, to have cocks perfectly staunch; the waste of liquor through bad cocks is alone an object of importance and it is also apprehended that the liquor must get some damage from the cask, ceasing to be full after leakage has taken place. In some of the principal breweries in London, on this account, valves are adopted to retain the beer, instead of cocks, which are opened and closed by skrews, for the greater security; and, with these, leakage, is entirely prevented as far as it depends on this circumstance. The large backs belonging to the brewery of Cox, Curtis, and Co. are secured in this manner.

Suggestions for establishing a Telegraphic intercourse between London and Dublin, by the Rev. James Hall. *Phil. Mag. No.* 34, *p.* 124.

The Rev. Mr. Hall previous to his visit to Ireland, through a great part

of which he has lately travelled, began to study the physical geography of this country. On conversing on this subject with Dr. Thomson of Kensington gravel pitts, the doctor told him that the old maps of Ireland, particularly those of the fifteenth century, and about the time of the Spanish Armada, laid down the northern part of this kingdom much nearer the Mull of Cantire, in Scotland, than the modern maps in general do; which induced him to inquire particularly into the real distance between those places. On arriving at Torr-point, Fair head, the nearest point of Ireland to Scotland. Mr. Hall hired a boat, and sailed across to Cantire, but instead of finding the distance from 20 to 30 miles, as laid down in some of our modern maps, he found it to be but eleven miles and a half.

This circumstance suggested to Mr. Hall the great feasibility of establishing a telegraphic communication between England and Ireland, across this narrow channel. It is nearly as far from the telegraph at Putney to the one next to it, on the line from London to Portsmouth, as from Torr-point Fairhead in Ireland, to the Mull of Cantire in Scotland; and at another place of communication on the same line the distance between the telegraphs is nearly thirteen miles.

Mr. Bell further observes that in establishing telegraphs between Dublin and Cork, and northward from Dublin to Fairhead, there seems to be no difficulty. Between Fairhead, and the opposite coast of Scotland, he proposes that signals shall be addressed both to the eye and to the ear; those to the ear being calculated to rouse attention, and induce people to look out.

From Cantire information might be sent by a line of telegraphs, through the isles of Arran, Bute, and other places, by Glasgow, Edinburgh, &c. direct to London from Dublin or Cork, and back again in a few minutes.

Mr. Hall concludes with remarking the great importance of conveying speedy information to and from our fleets in the harbour of Cork, as well as to and from those at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and other ports in England, and with stating his opinion that the best way to have little employment for soldiers, sailors, ships of war, batteries, cannon, telegraphs, &c. is to have plenty of them always in readiness.

Observations.....That so gross a mistatement of the relative position of the north eastern extremity of Ireland, with regard to Great Britain, as is above related, should so long remain unnoticed, is another melancholy proof of the little attention which this country meets with from those whose interest it certainly would be to adopt a different line of conduct: and it is truly extraordinary that while large sums have been expended by government, in determining the geography of the antipodes, in the expeditions under the well known Captain Cooke, and others (which certainly have been very honourable to the nation) that of our own shores should remain in error. Much has been done for the improvement of geography in the present reign, but still much remains to be done, and some of it of a nature, which peculiarly demands attention from the British government. It is to be hoped therefore, that the trigonometrical surveys, which have been considerably advanced in Great Britain, will be completed for that island, and also be extended to Ireland, and that the position of the coasts of a part of the world which British ships now much frequent, those of New Holland, may be ascertained with some degree of precision, the eastern coast alone of that country is known with any accuracy, and all the rest are in such obscurity, as to leave it still in doubt, whether that spacious country is a single island, or is composed of two or more islands, which is somewhat disgraceful to the first maritime nation in the world, after having had the country so long in possession.

There can be little doubt of the advantage of the telegraphic communication proposed by Mr. Hall, or of its feasibility, if what he has stated is as correct, as we are inclined to believe it is. It may perhaps give as striking an idea of the use it may be of, as any other circumstance, to consider, that had such a communication existed between the

two kingdoms at the memorable period when the French Fleet lay so long in Bantry bay, the capture of that fleet by the British Navy, must have been inevitable, as the wind was perfectly favourable during the whole of the time, for British ships to sail from Plymouth; and other English ports, though so adverse to vessels passing from Ireland, that it was above a fortnight from the time, when the French fleet first entered the bay, before an account of the event was conveyed to the British Government.

On the spontaneous ignition of Charcoal, by M.B.G. Sage, director of School of Mines in France.

Journal de Physique, tom. 55, *F.* 423.

M. de Causigni, appears to be the first who observed that charcoal was capable of being set on fire by the pressure of millstones.

M. Robin, commissary of the powder mills of Essonne, has given an account in the Annales de Chemie, No. 35, F. 93, of the spontaneous inflammation of charcoal, from the black-berry bearing alder, that took place the 25d of May 1801, in the box of the bolter, into which it had been sifted; this charcoal made two days before, had been ground in the mill without showing any signs of ignition. The coarse powder that remained in the bolter experienced no alteration. The light undulating flame, unextinguishable by water, that appeared on the surface of the sifted charcoal, was of the nature of Hydrogen gas, which is equally unextinguishable.

The moisture of the atmosphere, of which fresh made charcoal is very greedy, appears to me to have concurred in the developement of the inflammable gas, and the combustion of the charcoal.

It has been observed that charcoal powdered and laid in large heaps, heats strongly.

Alder charcoal has been seen to take fire in the ware-houses, in which it has been stored.

About thirty years ago, I saw the roof of one of the low wings of the mint set on fire by the spontaneous combustion of a large quantity of charcoal, that had been laid in the garrets.

M. Malet, commissary of gunpowder at Poutailler, near Dion, has seen charcoal take fire under the pestle; he also found that when pieces of saltpetre and brimstone were put into the charcoal mortar, the explosion took place between the fifth and sixth strokes of the pestle. The weight of the pestles is 80 pounds each, half of this belonging to the rounded ferule of bell metal, in which each one terminates.

The pestles are raised only one foot, and make 45 strokes in a minute.

In consequence of the precaution now taken, to pound the charcoal, brimstone, and salt-petre separately, no explosions take place, and time is gained in the fabrication, since the paste is made in eight hours, that formerly required twenty-four.

Every wooden mortar contains twenty pounds of the mixture, to which two pounds of water are added gradually.

The paste is first corned; it is then glazed, that is, the corns are rounded, by subjecting them to the rotary motion of a barrel, through which an axis passes: and lastly, it is dried in the sun, or in a kind of stove.

Experience has shewn, that brimstone is not essential to the preparation of gun-powder; but that which is made without it falls to powder in the air, and will not bear carriage.

There is reason to believe that the brimstone forms a coat on the surface of the powder, and prevents the charcoal from attracting the moisture of the air.

The goodness of the powder depends on the excellence of the charcoal; and there is but one mode of obtaining this in perfection, which is by distillation in close vessels, as practised by the English.

The charcoal of the French manufactories is at present prepared in pots, where the wood receives the immediate action of the air, which occasions the charcoal to undergo a peculiar alteration.

Observation. The many dreadful accidents which have happened from explosions in the preparation of gunpowder, renders it a point of humanity to make every circumstance that

can tend to excite them, as public as possible. That which forms the subject of this paper, is as yet known to very few, and perhaps may have been the cause of the loss of many useful members of society, without being suspected.

Theory of the Detonation and Explosion of Gunpowder. By the author of the former paper.

Journal de Physique, tom. 55.

These two phenomena, which take place at the same instant, arise from different causes. The detonation is the noise that is produced by the combination of two parts of inflammable air, and one of oxygen gas.

The explosion, or discharge, is produced by the water of the nitre, and that which results from the decomposition of the two gasses, which being expanded by the fire, occupies fourteen thousand times the space it did before; and acts in the same manner as compressed air, to which its elasticity is restored, and the explosive effect of which is produced without detonation.

The inflammation of gunpowder by means of a spark, arises from the ignition of the nitre and brimstone.

The inflammable gas is produced by the decomposition of the charcoal; and the oxygen gas arises from part of the nitre, which is decomposed by the fire.

After the explosion of gunpowder, we find the inside of the gun barrel coated with a mixture of alkaline sulphuret and charcoal not decomposed. This alkaline mixture attracts the moisture of the air, and forms a greasy coating within the barrel; and on discharging the piece, it kindles, and produces what is termed hanging fire. The barrel of a fowling-piece, therefore, should never be used a second day without cleaning.

Observations. The approach of the shooting season will render the contents of this paper interesting to many readers of the Magazine. The caution at the end will be found very useful, and may prevent many bad accidents.

Description of a process by which Potash and Soda may be metalized without the assistance of iron. By M. F. R. Curaudau.

Journal de Physique, Ap. 1808.

If, according to the process of Mr. Davy, potash and soda be metallic oxides, is it not more probable, that the prussic calcinations are simply the combination of this metal with charcoal? Such at least was my opinion, at the time of making my experiments, and it will appear how far it was well-founded, since I have accomplished the metallization of potash and of soda, by heating strongly the alkali with charcoal, a process which it is obvious ranks among the Prussic calcinations.

The metallization of potash or soda takes place with either of the two following mixtures, which succeed as well in stone retorts as in iron tubes; the first or second process may be employed indifferently. I prefer iron vessels, however, because they are more permeable to caloric, and less subject to fusion than the stone ware, particularly when the latter is penetrated with alkali; an inconvenience that prevents the operation from being continued to the end, which does not happen so frequently with iron.

Process the first.

Mix intimately four parts of animal charcoal, well powdered, with three of carbonate of soda, dried on the fire, without having been fused, and mix the whole with a sufficient quantity of linseed oil, but not so as to form a paste.

Process the second.

Take two parts of flour, and mix them intimately with one part of soda, prepared as in the preceding process, and add to this mixture as much linseed oil as it will bear without ceasing to be pulverulent.

Whatever be the kind of vessel employed to calcine this matter, and whether it be the first or second mixture, we must always begin with heating it gradually; but as soon as the matter is obscurely red, the fire may be increased, till a fine sky-blue light, surrounded with a greenish aureola, is perceived in the interior of the retort or iron tube. To this light will soon succeed a very copious vapour, which obscures all the interior of the vessel. This is the metal which is disengaged from the mixture. The fire must then be urged no farther, for at this temperature the retort begins to fuse; and if the iron resists better, it is because

the alkali penetrates it less readily than it does the stone ware, and likewise because the heat it receives is sooner transmitted to the matter within.

To collect the metal in proportion as it forms, introduce into the vacant part of the apparatus a rod of iron, well cleaned, and as it must not have time to grow red-hot, take it out again in four or five seconds; it will then be found covered with metal, to remove which the rod is to be plunged instantly into a glass cucurbit filled with essence of turpentine. This cucurbite should be immersed in a tub of water, to prevent the essence from boiling; and notwithstanding this precaution, it will be heated so much sometimes as to take fire on the immersion of the iron rod.

To execute these processes well, three persons are necessary. One should take care of the fire, and work the bellows. The most active should collect the metal as it is produced, and with the utmost celerity plunge the iron rods into the essence. The third must separate the metal that is on the rods, and then plunge them into water, not only to cool them, but also to remove the alkali that may have escaped metallization, or have been formed by combustion previous to the immersion of the metal in the essence of turpentine. He must likewise take care to wipe the rods perfectly dry, that he who collects the metal may have nothing else to do.

These processes, while the metal is producing, requires in the operation a dexterity not inferior to the celerity I have recommended. The attention of him who manages the bellows is also an object of no little importance, for if he suffers the fire to slacken, the metal will immediately cease to be disengaged, and the rods will be covered with nothing but pure alkali. On the contrary, if he encreases the fire at this period of the process, the apparatus will melt, and the experiment fail. This proves how high but uniform the temperature must be. I have observed that the metal is always produced at the heat of melting iron. Accordingly an iron tube will seldom serve twice, and retorts always melt before the whole of the metal is obtained.

I think I may conclude from my experiments, that the production of the metal is not owing, as has been said, to the disoxigenation of the alkali; but that it is a new compound, in which hydrogen appears to have entered into combination, and I conceive in a state of great condensation.

Be this as it may, during the whole of the operation, hydrogen, alkali not converted into metal, and prussic radical in the state of gas, continue to be disengaged. The last in particular I have collected in pretty considerable quantity.

These results tend to prove that hydrogen is one of the component parts of the alkalis, the extrication of which is promoted by the charcoal; or that charcoal itself is a compound, one of the principles of which is hydrogen. There is no alternative but one or the other of these hypotheses.

Observations on the nature of the new properties of Alkaline Metals. By the author of the former paper.

Same Work.

Several of the phenomena that accompany the metallization of potash and soda, appearing to me inexplicable on the hypothesis of the alkalis being simply disoxigenised: and this theory besides agreeing neither with the properties of the oxygen, nor with those of ammonia, the principles of which should be analogous to those of potash and soda, I could not join in opinion with those chemists, who conceive the metallization of potash and soda to be merely the result of the disoxigenation of these substances. On the contrary, without prejudging any thing, I would only consider the facts; with this view I performed the following experiments.

Exp. 1. To prove the presence of carbon in the alkaline metals it was necessary to have recourse to the action of a substance, with which the alkalis have more affinity, than they have with the principles which constitute the metals, and which at the same time should be incapable of furnishing any element that would combine with those I sought to separate from the metalized alkalis.

Silex, from its indestructibility, the state of purity in which it is attainable, and particularly its affinity for the alkalis, appeared to me to unite all th

properties that I wished to find in the substance which was to be employed in my experiment.

In fact, having heated silex in a glass tube with a little of the alkaline metal, it combined with the alkali, and set free the carbon.

The carbon thus separated, no longer took fire in the air; it required the assistance of heat.

Exp. 2. Consists in enclosing in a thin bit of lead a ball of the metal of soda, and then immersing it in a vessel filled with lime water. The metal thus confined is obliged to oxigenate itself at the expense of the oxygen of the water. Two affinities concur, to effect this decomposition: the first is that of the alkali for water, the second that of carbon for oxygen; an affinity so much the more energetic, as in this state the carbon exhibits to us a very remarkable instance of its great propensity to become oxided.

If in this second experiment, I recommend taking the metal of soda, it is on account of its solidity, which allows it to be handled; and because its destruction is more slow, an advantage that allows us to observe the decomposition of the water for some time. If, on the contrary, the experiment were made with the metal of Potash, the decomposition of water would be instantaneous; which on the one hand would oppose the combination of the carbonic acid with the lime water, and on the other, would force the gases resulting from the decomposition of the metal, to break the obstacles opposed to it by the lead, in which they would be included.

We then see that the metal of potash is eminently combustible, and that of soda is less so, a property explicable by the difference of affinity of these alkalis for water.

One remark that I have made, and which will form a very curious experiment, is, that in collecting the metal of potash by means of iron rods, very loud detonations may be produced, the intensity of which is very similar to that of gunpowder employed in ten times the quantity,

The following is the method of repeating this experiment with success: Instead of immersing the iron rods into essence of turpentine, the instant they are removed from the gun-barrel to collect the metal, they must be plunged suddenly and perpendicularly into a bucket of water. An explosion will then take place, the loudness of which will be in proportion to the quantity of metal, and the diameter of the iron rod.

From the foregoing experiments and observations (I am of opinion) it follows:

1st. That the conversion of the alkalis into metals is not a disoxigenation of these substances; and that on the contrary it is a combination of the alkalis, with new elements.

2d. That the affinity of the alkaline metals for oxigen is merely a chemical illusion, occasioned by a substance, the existence of which, in combination with them, was not suspected.

3d. That carbon is one of the constituent principles of the alkaline metals, since it can be obtained separate from them at pleasure, or be converted into carbonic acid by oxigenation.

4. That if the specific gravity of the alkaline metals be less than that of water, it is because hydrogen probably accompanies the carbon in this combination.

5th. That the disoxigenation of substances attempted to be effected by means of the alkaline metals, will always yield equivocal results, until we have a knowledge of all the elements that compose these singular substances.

Observations. To render some of the papers, published by M. Curaudau, on chemical subjects of more use, a marked distinction must be made between the facts he relates, and the inferences he draws from them: whether his mind is framed so different from that of other men, that things seem good proof to him, which would only form the basis of conjecture to others, whether he is over hasty, or only wishes to excite attention by combating the opinions of the best chemists, and defending theories in direct opposition to them, is not easily determined, nor perhaps very material; but it is, however, proper to state, that the principal circumstances in which he differs from them, namely, that the alkalis contain oxygen, and that the alkaline metals at-

tract it with avidity, have been proved in the most satisfactory manner in the affirmative by Mr. Davy, in his last public lectures, by experiments which perhaps M. Curaudau never heard of. The experiments of Mr. Curaudau are however valuable, for proving that carbon exists in combination with the alkaline metals, and shewing that it is very probable hydrogen is also combined with them; but they by no means show that these metals do not attract oxygen, but only that they do not attract *the whole* of the oxygen taken up, but that a part of it is consumed by the combined carbon.

His fourth inference is also destitute of any real support, for he has stated no arguments to show that hydrogen combined in the solid state, has the property of diminishing the specific gravity of any substance whatsoever.

The circumstance of carbon being combined with the alkaline metals, or perhaps being necessary to their metalization, adds weight to certain conjectures of Mr. Davy's, mentioned at his lectures, which tend to revive the doctrine of Stahll, with some modification, and to make it probable that some undetermined substance, either of an inflammable nature, or some form of fire itself, exists in combination with every metal; but some of Mr. Davy's experiments proved, that this was not hydrogen, in the case of metal of potash.

The conjecture of M. Curaudau, that all iron contains carbon, is by no means confined to him, but is in fact the opinion of many experienced chemists.

Mr. Davy's theory, relative to the effect of iron in metallizing potash, is, that some of the iron first decomposes water contained in the potash, by absorbing its oxygen; that the hydrogen thus formed combines with the potash, and accelerates its fusion, and that in this state it parts with its oxygen, probably to the unoxided part of the iron.

Much is still wanted to complete our knowledge of the metals. If Mr. Curaudau's opinion of the agency of carbon in metallization of potash is confirmed, the discovery will do him much honour, as materially increasing this knowledge.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE LAUDABLE PERSEVERANCE OF A FEW, IS OFTEN CROWNED WITH SUCCESS.—ORIGIN OF THE ATHENÆUM IN LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL IS CHARACTERIZED BY ONE OF HER NATIVE POETS, AS,

> ..... intent,
> "On life's prime object, cent per cent,
> Heeds not a soft delicious strain;
> Nor any notes, save notes of gain."

And yet a stranger who views her Athenæum, Lyceum, and Union, and perceives so much of superfluous wealth applied to literary purposes, might be disposed to think highly of the literary taste of the inhabitants of this commercial and opulent town; but, on a closer view, perhaps, it may be found that these grand erections had at first their rise in the exertions of a few, and afterwards in their success encouraging similar undertakings, because, the stock in the Athenæum became a gainful commercial speculation. These spacious reading-rooms were built by subscription, and are the property of the subscribers; they are plentifully supplied with news papers, magazines, reviews, &c. to which is added in the Athenæum, a large well chosen library; with the Lyceum, the Liverpool library, an old institution has been since connected. To the exertions of two public spirited individuals is owing the successful attempt to build the Athenæum, the precursor of the others. A meeting was publicly advertised to consider of a proposal to establish a news-room and library, on an enlarged and liberal plan. A

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highly respectable and amiable physician, since deceased, Dr. Currie, (the biographer of Burns,) and Wm. Roscoe, whose refined taste, literary talents, and patriotic exertions are still beneficially employed to adorn and instruct the town and vicinity of Liverpool, only attended. They felt a degree of hopelessness on the occasion, and were going away; but on a little consideration, they resolved to proceed to business. One assumed the office of chairman and the other of secretary, and thus constituted, they published a plan in the name of a meeting, and appointed a number of their friends, a committee to to take in subscriptions. The work being thus set forward, subscribers offered; the Athenæum was built and elegantly fitted up with the apparatus of learning. The original shares, ten guineas, with an annual subscription, which constitute their fund, soon rose above par. and became a transferrible property increasing in value, and realized the idea of producing "notes of gain" to those who chose to sell. Thus encouraged, the Lyceum and Union were built, and by the praiseworthy exertions of a few individuals, plans have been established, which cannot fail to have a beneficial influence, particularly on the young men who abound in this commercial town, and who have thus an opportunity of employing their hours of leisure in an amusing and instructive manner, far different from the gross pleasures of the tavern. It is to the credit of many young men, that they are seen after the hours of the comting-house are expired, employing themselves in the rooms of the Athenæum, enjoying present rational amusement, and storing their minds with useful knowledge, while by such occupation they are kept from the dangers, to which idleness and indolence are exposed. K.

WANT OF EDUCATION.

Otho of Brandenburgh, in 1289, was regent of Bohemia, and had the custody of Wenceslaus, the young king of that country during his minority. From interested motives, he wished to keep the young king in ignorance: and so little attention was paid to him, that he roamed about the streets with a woollen shirt, tattered garments and torn shoes, and often suffered from hunger. His education was extremely neglected, and he was not taught either to read or write; and the knowledge which he afterwards acquired was derived from his good understanding, and his intercourse with the learned. But Otho was as zealous to accustom him to the exercises of religion, as he was careless of his person, manners, and education, for he compelled him to attend twenty masses a day. See Pelzel's history of Bohemia, vol. 1. Do not some persons in the present day, act a similar part on similar motives, while they object to give a good education to the poorer classes of society, and prefer external acts of devotion, to instructing the youth in useful knowledge.

ADVANTAGES OF INSTRUCTION.

At the present day there is, perhaps, no country in Europe, in which, in proportion to its population, so small a number of crimes fall under the chastisement of the criminal law, as Scotland. We have the best authority for asserting, that on an average of thirty years, preceding the year 1797, the executions in that division of the Island did not amount to six annually; and one quarter sessions for the town of Manchester only, has sent, according to Mr. Hume more felons to the plantations, than all the judges of Scotland usually do, in the space of a year. It might appear invidious to attempt a calculation of the many thousand individuals in Manchester and its vicinity, who can neither read nor write. A majority of those who suffer the pun-

ishment of death for their crimes, in every part of England, are, it is believed, in this miserable state of ignorance. Sir Richard Phillips found on examination of the jails in London, that by far the greater number of the prisoners could neither read nor write. Let us hear no more of the danger of instructing the poorer classes of Society. Ignorance never contributed to make a man a peaceable or good citizen.

SPEECH OF GEORGE THE SECOND TO PARLIAMENT, AGAINST IMPRESSING SEAMEN, JAN. 27th, 1727-8.

"I should look upon it as a great happiness, if, at the beginning of my reign, I could see the foundation laid of so great and necessary a work as the encrease and encouragement of our seamen in general: and that they may be invited rather than compelled by force and violence, to enter into the service of of their country, as far as occasion shall require it; a consideration worthy the representatives of a people, great, and flourishing in trade and navigation."

MERCY BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.

Albert, of the house of Austria, was assassinated in 1308. His sister, Agnes, during the retaliation which was inflicted afterwards on the adherents and families of the assassins, is said to have repeatedly exclaimed from the legend of St. Elizabeth, "now I bathe in May dew" a proverb expressing the most delicious pleasure. She, in conjunction with the widow of Albert, built and endowed a magnificent convent on the spot where he was assassinated. It was with great difficulty she could be prevailed on to spare the infant child of the Lord of Eschenbach, whom the soldiers of her party rescued from her hands at the moment she was preparing to strangle it, and above one thousand lives are supposed to have been sacrificed to glut her vengeance. Yet Agnes surpassed the most devout nuns, in fasting, praying, giving alms, and working costly implements for the church; but history records with pleasure the answer of an aged hermit, to her offer of asylum in the convent: "Woman" said he "God is not served by shedding innocent blood, and by building convents from the plunder of families, but by compassion and forgiveness of injuries."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1809.

Continued from No. 13, p. 129.

Et quod non didici, sane nescire fateri.

INFANTS OF KOSTER, here we come again,
Fray, can you give me any news from Spain?
"From Spain, sweet sir, aye, that we can indeed;
Such news mayhap, as never yet was read,
Except in Castlereagh's grand gazette!
Which sees a victory in a sad defeat."

Where, *ad captandum vulgus*—bold Sir Arthur,
Is clothed with every honour—save the garter,
Which, in due time, will on his shoulders fall,
Baron and viscount—in a moment start,
Upon his head—for losing only part,
Then, what must happen when he loses all?

Victor, and Ney, and "cursed Soult," may vapour,
About their gaining battles—but on paper,
(Though sick and wounded he may leave behind,)
Sir Arthur beats them evermore we find,
And still when foes upon his army press,
He is the boy—for negative success.

Sir Arthur fights, Sir Arthur runs away;
Thinking the Spaniards after him will stay;
Sir Arthur stops—thinking Cuesta watches,
While he, at Deleytoza, writes dispatches;
Stating that want of meat's the only reason,
Why he advances backwards out of season!
And 'scaped from Victor, calls himself a hero,
For doing which, he now is Baron Duero!

Then after telling us of all the thrashments,
He gave the Frenchmen, talks of "embarrassments"

Which, God knows how, poor man upon him
stole;
His army, sternly, front and rear assailing,
'Gainst which, he says, "my skill was unavailing,
And all my faculties could not control:
These are the facts I hereby do declara"
For these, he's created Viscount Talavera!

Thrice happy government, which can reward
A fav'rite minion, waving all regard
To merit or demerit—Pitt for ever!
Whose system was—let all things go by favour!

Whether it was a wise and prudent measure,
To spend upon these Spaniards so much treasure,
So many lives and such a wanton waste
Of British blood, we do'nt pretend to say,
But under Joseph Bonapart' they may,
As much tranquillity enjoy at least,
(Nay, might perchance, even better their condition,)
As under Ferd'nand, and the Inquisition.

'Tis to be hoped that shortly we shall see,
(After the sapient toasts with three times three,
So gravely given in the English taste,
By Spanish grandees at the civic feast,
To Wellesley's Marquis,) all the Spanish folk,
Get up, and nobly break the tyrant's yoke;
Yet after all their simultaneous boasting,
Their furious zeal we deem—will end in toasting!
If drinking toasts could furnish ground to hope,
We might look up, for Wellesley drank the Pope!

From lost Iberia, *enfants* turn your eyes,
Let's look around, if any prospect lies,
Of any chance, where we could make a slip,
And burn a village, or destroy a ship!
The expedition—say how it succeeds,
Tell us of mighty Chatham's mighty deeds,
Tell how his thunder gave our foes a touch,
And how he sack'd the Burrows of the Dutch,
Tell if he has taken aught that we can keep?
Were't e'en a thousand of Merino sheep!!

"Lord sir, your fancy, how it widely wanders,
Merino sheep are not produced in Flanders.

But listen well,
And we shall tell,
How Chatham sail'd,
To storm the Scheld,
And drew his sword,
To give the word,
Then gently put it in its sheath again,
Too wise to go,
To meet the foe,
'Cause Foe had five and thirty thousand men.
And Chatham, Master Gen'ral of the guns,*
Before the Prince of Ponte Corvo runs,
Tho' at the head of thousands ten times ten!

Harry the King, who fought at Agincourt,
Had Ponte Corvo, and a dozen more
Of Boni's Marshals, their appearance made
Upon the tented field, would thus have said,

"O God of battles steel my soldiers' hearts!
Possess them not with fear; take from them now
The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers
Pluck their hearts from them.....
.....turn thee back,
And tell thy king,—I do not seek him now;
But could be willing to march on to Calais
Without impeachment: for, to say the sooth,
(Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much
Unto an enemy of craft and vantage,)
My people are with sickness much enfeebled;
My numbers lessened; and those few I have,
Almost no better than so many French;
Who when they were in health, I tell thee, herald,
I thought, upon one pair of English legs
Did march three Frenchmen,—yet forgive me, God
That I do brag thus!—this your air of France
Hath blown that vice in me; I must repent.
Go therefore, tell thy master, here I am;
My ransom, is this frail and worthless trunk;
My Army but a weak and sickly guard;
Yet, God before, tell him we will come on
Tho' France, himself, and such another neighbour,
Stand in our way." *King Henry V.*

Had Wolfe, or Marlborough been in the Scheld,
With less than half the means that Chatham held,
Ere this they had advanced, ere this returned—
The Gallic forts destroy'd, their navy burn'd—
And the flotilla, brought with so much care
Through Furnes' canal,—blown up into the air.

Time was, when Britons on the Gallic coast,
Successive victories, could for centuries boast,
But still, since Chatham's brother took the helm,
In every case disasters overwhelm;
Defeats—Destruction—Danger and Disgrace,
To wait on all our measures never cease!

From these most dismal words begun with D,
Avert your eyes, behold the Jubilee!
The panacea and palladium sure,
Which all our evils—all our crimes will cure,
Which, though our prospects were as dark as smoke,
Will cover us from trouble like a cloak.

Sir Arthur's blunders, Chatham's want of skill,
With dire presage the public mind may fill,
But public danger, we must all agree,
Will be averted by this Jubilee!

The lads who muster in St. Stephen's Hall,
Scudding like rabbits at sage Spencer's call;*
Contractor! Jobber! Pensioner! will he
Cry come and celebrate our Jubilee!
Running like chickens when a kite they flee,
And nestle under wing of Jubilee!
Meat, drink, and clothing, every man must see,
Are amply furnished by this Jubilee!

Mynheer Von Koster, might perchance now *ax* us,
Will this same Jubilee reduce the taxes?

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* Of the Ordnance we presume.

* Probably the poet means, the Rt. Hon. Spencer Percival, Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. &c. &c.

Will't bring us back the millions which are swallow'd
In all the wild-goose projects we have follow'd?
Will it atone for blood profusely shed?
Or raise our slaughtered kinsmen from the dead?
Is't not a dream, a fiction and a tale,
Same as a tub thrown out—t'amuse the whale,
A scheme contrived by knaves, with view infernal,
Which clearly tends to have perpetuated,
These dreadful evils by themselves created,—
Confusion, anarchy, and war eternal.
Who does not see its end, is a mere gull,
A pillaged—moon-struck calf like Johnny Bull.

Edentecullo, 4th September, 1809. CALDERONE.

Addition to the above.

But why thus serious on so gay a matter?
Better by far to join the loyal clatter.
See Doodle and great Noodle both advance,
Singing our triumphs over conquered France,
Subdued upon the plains of Talavara.
See a black band led on by big O'Meara,
Join them and all the other shouting fellows,
For Royalty to make a noise quite zealous;
See all in chorus, grand, full and *sonorious*,
Chant out glad paeans to the day so glorious,
And sing this song composed by inspiration,
To show the loyal feelings of the Nation.

SONG.*

"*Doodle.* Sure such a day,
So renown'd, so victorious,
Such a day as this was never seen;
Courtiers so gay,
And the mob so uproarious,
Nature seems to wear an universal grin.

Noodle. Duke to his Poll,
Is grown bobbish and uxorious,
While she and Mistress Carey tipple talking tawdry,
Even Mr. Sol, so tifted out, so glorious,
Shines like a beau in a new birth-day embroidery.

Doodle. O 'tis a day of Jubilee cajolery,
A day we never saw before,
A day of fun and drollery.

Grand chorus. That you may say,
Their Majesties may boast of it,
And since it never can come more,
"Tis fit we make the most of it."

* Tragedy of Thumb, Act 1st.

A WISH, BY D. A.

THO' time has not sprinkled his frost on my head,
Yet some of its blossoming honours are shed,
And I hope I remember without being told,
That if I live long enough, I must grow old.

So let me sit down in a humour for musing,
Since nothing is easier than wishing and chusing,
And gravely consider what life I'd commence,
Should I reach out the distance of twenty years hence.

The young ones swarm'd out, and all likely to thrive,
And something still left to support the old hive,
I'd retire with my dame to a vill of my own,
Where we'd nestle together like Darby and Joan.

On the slope of a hill-top be plac'd my retreat,
With a wood on the back, and a stream at the feet,
At the front be a meadow, rich, verdant, and gay,
Where my horse, and a cow may find pasture and hay,

A garden, besure, I cannot be without,
With walks and high hedges well fenced about,
All blushing with fruit, and all fragrant with flowers,
With dry gravel walks, and sweet shady bow'rs.

O sweet sensibility, child of my soul,
Ill purchas'd the wisdom which thee must control,
Of thy friendly spirit when once we're bereft,
In life there is nothing worth living for left.

Then let it be ever the chief of my art,
To foster a generous glow in my heart,
Give way to effusions of friendship and love,
Nor the palsy of age these passions remove.

My boys and their spouses, my girl and her mate,
Shall come when they please, nor need knock at my gate;
And at Christmas we'll revel in mirth and good cheer,
Should we live poorer for it the rest of the year.

An old friend from the town shall sometimes take a walk,
To spend a day with me in sociable talk,
We'll discuss knotty points, compare what we've read,
And warm'd with a bottle move slowly to bed.

When ev'nings grow long, and we're gloomy at home,
To vary the scene, 'mong our neighbours we'll roam,
See how the world passes, collect all the news,
And return with a load of new works, and reviews.

In short its the sum of my wish and desire
That chearfulness ever my breast may inspire,
Let my purse become light and my liquor run dry,
So my stock of good humour held out till I die.

I have nothing to ask in the finishing scene,
But a conscience approving, a bosom serene,
To rise from Life's banquet, a satisfy'd guest,
Thank the Lord of the feast, and in hope, go to rest.

"I HAVE A HOME."

"I have a Home," delightful sound!
It makes my heart with joy rebound,
From Friendship's lips the words I hear,
They reach my heart and centre there.

"I have a Home,"—some potent spell
Must surely in the numbers dwell:
Sweet as the music of the grove,
And charming as the voice of Love.

"I have a Home," 'tis bliss to hear,
For peace and comfort wait me here:
Joys that oppression cannot know,
Pleasures that leave no taint of woe.

"I have a Home" and dwell in peace,
Each jarring thought has learned to cease,
No discord vain my calm annoys,
Or checks the current of my joys.

"I have a Home," no stranger there,
With fraud or guile may interfere,
No envious tongue create a sigh,
Or there my privilege deny.

"I have a home," and round my head,
Though many a storm its fury shed;
Yet oft this thought inspired relief,
And checked an agony of grief.

"I have a Home," and there I know
The raptures that from friendship flow:
The smile serene, the converse kind,
Which emanate from hearts refined.

"I have a Home," a sure retreat,
A refuge from the storms of fate,
An anchor when the waves beat high,
A covert from a lowering sky.

"I have a Home," and there I see,
A bounteous God provides for me;
I learn to feel for all who live,
And know that it is blest "to give."

"I have a Home," and there secure,
I think of many an houseless poor,
Hence soft emotions grateful rise,
Hence pity's tear bedews mine eyes.

"I have a Home," and oh! my soul,
When time shall yield his stern controul,
When ages of eternal day
Commence their never-ending sway
When all this transient scene is o'er,
When sin misleads the heart no more,
When even the purest joys below
Shall cease to charm, shall cease to flow,
Then 'midst thy awful wreck of fate
Oh! may my soul, serene, sedate,
Unmoved, tho' rent the world's vast dome,
Say, rapturous word! "I have a Home."

Dublin. M. C.

THOUGHTS ON HAPPINESS.

STRANGE is the lot of weary, plodding man,
As through the vale of life he holds his way,
His joys are oft collected in a span,
His griefs wide-spreading like the beams of day.
And could the great Jehovah then ordain,
His fav'rite offspring thus to pine with care,
When brutes irrational content obtain,
When wide creation smiles serenely fair.
Hence impious thought! benevolence supreme,
Did ne'er create an *atony* for wo;
Then surely *man*, elate in mind and mien,
Is formed each grand, each dear delight to know.
Yes, but so erring are our thoughtless hearts,
So wasp-like, in their nature so perverse,
That ev'ry flowry sweet which heav'n imparts,
Is changed to poison, to a sad reverse.
When spring and summer smile in loveliest bloom.
We range delighted o'er th' enchanting plains;
Where winter spreads around his awful gloom,
Our summer's pleasures form our winter's pains.
When youth and manhood drain enjoyment's bowl,
With health, content, and gaiety we roam,
When chilling age imposes stiff controul,
Our early pleasures wake the pensive moan.
When gen'rous friendship warms th' expanded breast,
Delights unknown to selfish souls we find,
Should "perfidy ingrate" should death infest,
Our past enjoyments agonize the mind.
O Mary! short and blissful was the hour,
When first thy graces thrilled my leaping heart;
Too soon we parted, but alas! thy power
I could not leave, so witching is thy art.
Again I saw, rejoiced, and loved the more,
Worth bound the noose which beauty had prepared;

Now far from thee, I sigh, I doubt, adore,
My days, my nights, with anxious sorrow shar'd.
Thus still we strive to thwart Heaven's kind intents,
By changing joys which ought to temper woe
Into a gloomy source of discontent,
Whence half our griefs (ideal miseries) flow.
Oh! could we learn to reason and be wise,
To taste life's sweets where sov'reign virtue reigns,
And all its little meaner cares despise,
'Twould gently free us from a host of pains!
Then should we laugh, when fortune seem'd to frown,
Joyful to think upon her former smiles,
And ev'ry fear and anxious whisper drown
With songs to hope, who many a woe beguiles.

M.

July 15, 1809.

STANZAS,

WRITTEN ON HEARING MISS A*** PERFORMING ON THE PIANO FORTE, AND SINGING.

Is there a heart that music cannot melt?
Alas! how is that rugged heart forlorn.

BEATTIE.

WHAT ravishing sounds do I hear,
Which float on the still breeze of night,
Which bid all my woes disappear,
And soothe me to dreams of delight?

Some Angel descends from on high,
The spirit of Rapture to wake;
To stifle pale misery's sigh,
And bid sorrows heart cease to ache.

Or, is it the orphean lyre;
So fabled by Poets of yore?
Which rocks could with motion inspire,
And lost animation restore.

Ah no! 'tis ELIZA's white hand,
Directing the sweet-sounding strings;
Each heart must with rapture expand—
But hark! with what magic she sings!

That voice might beguile from it's pain,
The heart long abandon'd to care;
Might charm meagre Want's joyless train,
And even speak peace to Despair.

How oft with ineffable joy,
I've heard the wild choristers sing!
When perch'd on their branches so high,
They welcom'd the life-giving spring.

But now, they delight me no more,
No pleasure their songs can impart:
For only Eliza can pour,
The music which thrills at my heart.

Dunover, July 10. GAELUS.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Description of the Basso Relievo, in the grand Pediment of the Colonnade of the Louvre at Paris: from a French Journal.

THIS is one of the largest pieces of sculpture known, being above 78 feet long, and 16 high, exclusive of the cornices. It represents the muses celebrating the glory of the hero, the protector of the arts, to whom they are indebted for the finishing of the Louvre, desired in vain by them, by the nation, and by ten kings, during more than three centuries.

A colossal bust of the emperor occupies the superior part of the pediment. The bust stands on a cippus, at the foot of which is seated victory, holding palm branches and crowns of laurel. On each side are the muses, being arranged in two groups. Minerva is inviting them to celebrate this new benefit, this new title to glory.—They are near ten feet high.

On the left (of the spectator) Clio is inscribing on the cippus, with the style of history, the name of the sovereign, that has finished the Louvre. Behind her Melpomene and Calliope, hand in hand, appear to participate in the action of Clio; while Polyhymnia, wrapped in her cloak in the ancient mode, meditates on this happy event; and Urania, with a celestial globe placed on her knees, points to the constellation of the lion, under which the Emperor was born. On the right Minerva turned toward the other group, is standing like the muse of history on one of the steps of the cippus. Terpsichore and Euterpe obey the goddess by singing hymns of gratitude and admiration; while Erato inspired by love, accompanies them with the lyre, and Thalia listens with emotion.

It was not easy to place figures connected with the principal action in the opposite angles of the pediment. These are occupied by two genii, one holding a caduceus, the other a torch, and in the other hand a garland of fruit and laurel, with which they appear desirous of decorating the monument. This kind of embellishment assorts with what Goujon and his successors employed in the interior of the court of the Louvre.

Many artists, who have examined this bass relief very near, not only praise the noble simplicity of the style, of which a judgment may always be formed, as well as of the taste of the ornaments, but in particular the fine expression of the heads, and the elegance and finish of the execution, which are merits scarcely to be distinguished at a distance of a hundred feet. They will not be wholly lost, however, when there is a strong light on the figures.

The sculptor that conceived and executed this bass relief is Mr. Lemot, who, though young, ranked high in the art, even before this grand monument. This application of sculpture is perhaps one of the most difficult, as it is certainly the most majestic: and it is not every one that is endowed with talents to succeed in it. It will be one of the characteristics of the emperor's reign, to have caused it to make great progress; and this pediment, which will be distinguished on more than one account, is worthy to fix the period of the finishing of the Louvre.

It is said, and we may congratulate the artist upon it, that he reserved to himself an opportunity, of retouching, by means of a moveable scaffold, such parts as the incalculable effects of optics and experience should prove to require it. Mr. Lemot is a sculptor of the first rank. He obtained the grand prize of sculpture before he was seventeen. We are indebted to him for the fine bass relief of the tribune of the legislative body; several of the figures decorating that hall, and among them that of Lycurgus, which is very well imagined; that of Leonides, for the hall in which the senate assembles; that of Cicero, for the hall of the tribunate, &c. None of our sculptors have so much grandeur of style.

A Tour in Silesia, translated from the French, of Mr. Bernardin de St. Pierre, member of the Institute, and author of the Studies of Nature.

When I was returning from Russia to France, I found myself among a number of travellers of different countries, in the post waggon that goes from Riga to Breslau. We sat in pairs, on wooden benches, our luggage at our feet, and the sky over our heads, travelling day and night, exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, and finding nothing at the inns on the road, but black bread, malt spirits and coffee. This is the mode of travelling in Russia, Prussia, Poland, and most parts of the North. After having crossed vast forests of firs and birch, interspersed among sandy plains, we arrived at the mountains covered with beech and oak, that separate Poland from Silesia.

Though my fellow-travellers understood French, a language now universal throughout Europe, they conversed very little. One morning at day-break we found ourselves on a hill, near a country-seat, in a delightful situation. Several rivulets flowed through its long avenues of limetrees, and formed below little islands planted with orchards, surrounded by meadows. At a distance, as far as the eye could reach, we discerned the rich plains of Silesia, covered with corn, villages, and country seats, and watered by the Oder, that traversed them like a riband of silvered azure.—'Delightful prospect!' exclaimed an Italian painter, going to Dresden: 'I could almost fancy I saw the Milanese.'

'What extensive plains," observed an astronomer of the Berlin academy: This is a fine situation for measuring a base, and the steeples would give such a grand series of triangles!'

'Do you know,' said an Austrian baron to the geometrician, with a disdainful smile, 'that this domain is one of the noblest in Germany; all the steeples you see there below are dependant on it.'

'If so, answered a Swiss merchant, 'the inhabitants are all vassals. Faith 'tis a wretched country.'

A Prussian officer, who was smoking gravely, took his pipe from his mouth, and rejoined: 'No person in this country is dependant on any one but the king of Prussia. He has freed the Silesians from the yoke of Austria and its nobility. I remember he made us encamp here four years ago. O! what fine plains for an engagement! I would place my magazines in that mansion, and my artillery on its terraces. My infantry should be drawn up along the river, my cavalry disposed on its wings; and with thirty thousand men, I would here defy all the forces of the empire. Long live Frederic!'

He had scarcely replaced his pipe in his mouth, when a Russian officer declared, he would not live in a country like Silesia, open to every army. 'Our Cossacks,' continued he, 'ravaged it last war; and if it had not been for our regular troops, that checked them, they would not have left a single hut standing. At present it is still worse: the peasantry can drag the landholders into courts of justice; and the townsmen enjoy still greater privileges. I like the neighbourhood of Moscow far better.'

How, gentlemen, can you talk of war in such a delightful spot? says a young student of Leipsic. 'Permit me to inform you that the very name of Silesia is derived from the Elysian fields. Let us rather cry out with Virgil, O Lycoris, hic tecum consumerer ævo."

At these words, uttered with much warmth, a pretty French milliner, who had fallen asleep from fatigue, awoke, and on seeing the beautiful landscape, exclaimed; 'O delightful country! it wants nothing but Frenchmen. Why do you sigh?' turning to a young rabbin, who sat beside her.

'Look at that mountain yonder, with its peak,' answered the Jewish doctor; 'it resembles Mount Sinai.'

At this every one burst out into a laugh, except an old Lutheran minister of Erfurth, who, knitting his brows, said in a rage: 'Silesia is an accursed land, since the truth is banished from it. It groans under the yoke of popery; at the entrance of Breslau you will see the palace of the ancient Dukes of Silesia converted into a college of Jesuits, though they are driven out of all the rest of Europe.'

A fat Dutch merchant, who had been purveyor to the Prussian army in the last war, replied to him: 'How can you call such a flourishing land cursed? The king of Prussia did very right to conquer Silesia, it is the finest jewel in his crown. I would rather have a single acre of garden ground in it, than a square mile in the sandy march of Brandenburg.'

Thus disputing we arrived at Breslau, where we alighted at a very good inn. While dinner was preparing, we talked of the owner of the country seat. The Saxon minister asserted, that he was the villain who commanded the Prussian artillery at the siege of Dresden; that he had beaten down with poisoned bombs that unhappy city, half of the houses of which were still in ruins; and that he had acquired his estate only by means of contributions levied in Switzerland.

'You are mistaken,' answered the baron: 'he got it by marrying an Austrian countess, who lesened herself greatly by giving him her hand. She is much to be pitied. None of her children can enter into the noble chapters of Germany, for their father is only a soldier of fortune.'

'What you say,' replied the Prussian officer, 'is much to his credit; and he would now be loaded with honours in Prussia, had he not forfeited his title to them by quitting the king's service at the peace. He cannot show himself there now.'

Our landlord, who was present to superintend laying the cloth, rejoined: 'It is evident, gentlemen, that you are not acquainted with the person of whom you speak: he is a man loved and respected by every one. There is not a beggar on his estate. Though a catholic, he relieves the poor passenger, whatever be his religion, or his country. If a Saxon, he gives him food and lodging for three days, in remembrance of the injury he was obliged to do his country during the war. His wife and children adore him.'

'I must tell you,' said the Lutheran minister, to the landlord, 'there is neither charity nor virtue in his communion, what he does is pure hypocrisy, like all the virtues of the heathens and papists.'

We had several catholics in company, and high words were about to arise, when our landlord, seating himself at the head of the table, after the German custom, ordered dinner to be brought in. A profound silence ensued, and every one fell to eating and drinking like a traveller; our dinner was good, and followed by a dessert of peaches, grapes, and melons. The landlord then desired his wife, while coffee was getting ready, to bring a few bottles of champagne, to treat the company in honour of the owner of the country seat we had passed, to whom he was under particular obligations. The wine being

brought, he set it before the French lady, requesting her to do the honours of the table. Every face now brightened up, and our tongues resumed their office. My countrywoman presented the landlord with the first glass of his wine, telling him that we were as well served as at the best inn in Paris, and that no Frenchman could be more polite. The Russian officer confessed, that fruit was more plentiful at Breslau than at Moscow; compared Silesia with Livonia for fertility; and added, that the freedom of the peasantry rendered the land better cultivated, and its owners more happy. The astronomer observed, that Moscow was nearly in the same latitude as Breslau, and consequently was susceptible of the same productions. The Hussar officer said: 'Indeed I am inclined to think, that the owner of the estate through which we have just passed, did very wisely to quit the army. After all, our great Frederic having made war with glory, spends part of his time in gardening, and cultivating melons himself at Sans Souci!' The whole company agreed in opinion with the Hussar. The Saxon minister himself owned, that Silesia was a fine province, and that it was great pity it was in error; but he had no doubt, as liberty of conscience was established throughout the Prussian dominions, that all the inhabitants, and in particular the owner of the mansion, would open their eyes to the truth, and embrace the confession of Augsburg. 'For,' added he, 'God will not leave a good action unrewarded; and it is certainly one that cannot be too much commended in a soldier, who has done so much harm to my countrymen in the war, to do good to them in peace.'

Our landlord then proposed the gentleman's health, which was drunk with applause by all the company. Even the young rabbin did not refuse the toast. Rising from his solitary table, at which he sat eating his own provision in a corner of the room, he presented his large leathern cup to the lady, who filled it to the brim. He having emptied it at a single draught, she said to him: 'Well, doctor, what think you? is not the country that produces such wine as good as the promised land?

'No doubt, madam;' answered he, with a smile, 'particularly when this good wine is poured out by such a fair hand.'

'Pray, then,' said she to him, 'that your Messiah may be born in France, to collect thither your tribes from all parts of the world.'

'Would to God he might!' replied the Israelite; 'but he must first make the conquest of Europe, almost all over which we are so miserable. He must be another Cyrus, to compel the different nations to live in peace with each other, and with all mankind.'

'May your prayers be heard!' exclaimed most of the guests.

I admired the difference of opinion of so many persons, who were disputing with one another before they sat down to dinner, and agreed so well when they rose from table. I inferred, that man is malevolent when unhappy, for it is a great unhappiness to many to be fasting: and that when happy he is benevolent; for when he has made a good dinner he is in peace with all the world, like Rousseau's savage.

Another inference I made from it is of more importance. It was, that all these opinions, most of which had staggered mine in their turn, arose merely from the different education of my fellow-travellers; and I doubted not but each of them would return to his own, when the effects of our good cheer ceased to operate.

Desirous of forming an impartial judgment on the subjects of our conversation, I addressed myself to a gentleman at my side, who had never once spoken, and appeared of a constantly even temper. 'What do you think of Silesia, and of the owner of the country-seat?'

'Silesia,' answered he, is a very good country, since it produces abundance of fruit, and the master of that seat is an excellent man, since he relieves all that are unhappy. As to the manner in which we judge of things, it differs in every individual, according to his religion, his nation, his condition in life, his temper, his age, the season of the year, the hour of the day, and above all his education, for this gives the first and last colour to our opinions. But he who refers all to the happiness of mankind, is sure

to judge as God acts. It is by the general fitness of things we should regulate our private opinions, as we all regulate our watches by the same sun."

Ever since this conversation, I have endeavoured to judge of every thing like my philosopher. I have found, that it is just the same with our globe and its inhabitants, as with Silesia; every one forms his idea of them according to his education. The astronomer views the world merely as a Dutch cheese turning round the sun; the soldier sees nothing in it but fields of battle, and promotions; the nobleman, lordships and vassals; the priest, believers and infidels; the merchant, branches of commerce, and good bills; the painter, landscapes; and the epicurean, terrestrial paradises. But the philosopher considers it in its relations to the wants of man; and the men that dwell on it, according to their conduct towards each other.

NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

MR. Achermann, the publisher of the Microcosm of London, is preparing against next spring, as a companion to that instructive and entertaining work, a history of the arts and manufactures of the British Empire. It is intended to give a history and description of every art or manufacture of any importance, so as to gratify and inform the general reader, and instruct the manufacturer himself. Beside the assistance which the editor has already been promised, in order to render the work as complete as possible, the publisher offers ten gold medals, of the intrinsic value of ten guineas each, for the ten best accounts of any art or manufacture sent him; and twenty silver medals, from the same dies, for the twenty next best.

A French translation of the Asiatic Researches, by M. Labeaume, with notes on the oriental, philological and historical parts by Mr. Langle's, and on those relating to natural history and mathematics, by Messrs. Cuvier, Delambre, Lamarck, and Oliver, all members of the Institute, is printing at the imperial press at Paris.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Memoirs of Frederick and Margaret Klopstock, translated from the German; by the author of Fragments in Prose and Verse, the third edition. Printed by R. Curtwell, Bath, small 8vo. 236 *p.p.*

WHEN we lately reviewed, "the Fragments in Prose and Verse," we gave to the interesting writer, Elizabeth Smith, much praise for the amiable disposition she displayed in this posthumous publication, and particularly for her moderation in censuring others, whose creed might differ from hers. In the preface to these memoirs, written by her friend, M. Bowdler, of Bath, but which preface we are told, "was, before her death, read and approved by her," we are sorry to see a departure from a spirit of moderation. With a laboured attempt to reconcile us to the extravagance of Klopstock receiving consolation from writing letters to his deceased wife, although it is probable that he afterwards forgot this foolish superstition, when he transferred his affections to the object of a second matrimonial engagement, the writer of the preface attacks those whose enthusiasm is not as extravagant as her own, and falls foul of "that cold scepticism, which now assumes the venerable name of philosophy," and whose adherents she consigns "to the darkness which they prefer." This appears to be neither fair-reasoning, nor fair-dealing. If she have faith, which to more sober and cooler heads appears to be enthusiasm, let

her have this faith to herself, but she has no right to suppose that the possession of such a creed, as she and Klopstock possessed, gives an exclusive title to fortitude, to support the many grievous trials of life. Happily for mankind, true fortitude and patient resignation are not alone appropriated by the disciples of enthusiasm.

We have known some, who under the pressure of the afflictions to which we are liable, have been unable to draw consolation from the hackneyed topics, which superstition and enthusiasm are ever ready to produce, but which seldom make a lasting impression on their votaries, these tendencies being violent in the paroxysm, but seldom lasting in the impression, yet these cold sceptics, as they are tauntingly called, have derived support from considerations producing less flashy but more durable effects. We totally condemn this mode of reasoning, which is too common in the world, and of which the writer of this preface affords a specimen, of endeavouring to establish that all virtuous motives, and even all power to enjoy the common blessings and consolations of life are confined to those who possess the Shiboleth of their party, or are able to use the slang of the language of the initiated. Besides the intolerance of this attempt, the endeavour, if successful, must have an injurious tendency on the progress of human intellect, as this class of people endeavour to make the human mind retrogressive, and to introduce the superstitions of former ages. If it were not for the exercise of the press, which is beneficially used to expose such retrograde motions, we are sometimes inclined to fear that in the 19th century we might be in danger of going back to the darkness of the middle ages, and in the words of the preface, be again willing to listen, "to the sweet illusion of the indulgence in the little arts, by which the mourner tried to sooth his grief by letters, from the living to the dead." Indeed we are not fond of the introduction of German literature, nor approve of the ephemeral taste which has given to it a favourable reception. German mysticism, like German romance, has its gloomy haunted castles, its winding corridores, and dismal narrow passages. It thrills the mind with horror, and for a season produces a temporary suspension of the cooler judgment, till roused from the delusion, the mind resumes its wonted powers.

We have entered our objections at greater length to this preface, because they apply in a considerable degree to the sentiments of Frederick Gottlieb Klopstock himself. His religion appears to have been the religion of a poet, made up of *feeling*, as his admirers call it, but in our vocabulary we prefer to denominate it a religion of *fancy* as most descriptive of his state. We have no objection to the warmth of his heart, but we think a cooler head would have been of advantage to him. A religion of feeling must necessarily be unstable, and subject to all the variableness of human passions. Like a spring-day with alternate sunshine and showers, enthusiasm has its high and low fits; sometimes soaring in the clouds, and at other times shut up in dungeons. We think an even, steady course is more likely to produce the permanent advantages of a well trained mind, duly regulated and disciplined, and a disposition better fitted to pass through the chequered scenes of life, than if feeling were cherished at the expense of judgment. In making these remarks we wish to remember our own axioms of toleration, introduced at the beginning of this article, and if some minds are trained to virtue by such desultory steps, we do not object to the good fruits produced, because it is not exactly in our own way. We only enter our cayeat against the exclusive claims adduced by each party, of estimating all that is valuable only by the productions of their own garden.

After the preface by M. Bowdler, which savours so much of intolerance, and has not a little smack of superstition and bigotry, we are relieved by perusing the life of Klopstock, written by Elizabeth Smith. Here we are not disposed to retract the opinion we had formerly expressed of this amiable young woman. The life is written in a pleasing style, and though not capable of entering into all the theological views of the writer, we meet with nothing of that obtrusive intolerance which disgusted us in the preface. The life is a well written, and instructive

narrative, the materials for which were principally furnished by Dr. Mumssen; but these materials are pleasingly arranged by the taste and modest piety of the editor, whose fragments and other writings leave us cause to think highly of the benevolence of her heart, and the solidity of her acquirements. While reading her part of the work, we breathed a freer air than when we toiled through the preface.

Now follow the letters, which make the larger part of the volume. The first are letters from Klopstock to Bodmer, of no very prominent interest. Then we have some letters between him and his wife Meta. They breathe mutual affection, and will be read with pleasure, on account of their speaking the language of the heart, after making some deductions for the overstraining of feeling or fancy in some of them. Several letters follow, written by different persons, giving an account of her death in childbed. In this series we especially notice a letter to Klopstock, from Funke, who in his ardour to present consolation to his friend, enters into the most unauthorised conjectures on the subject of the intention of Providence in the death of Meta, and of her child; and forms a scheme of the divine councils, as if short-sighted, finite man could fathom the depths of infinity. We give a specimen of the curious mysticism, not uncommon in other parts of these letters, in the following extract from this letter:

"According to these ideas, those marriages must be considered as the happiest, in which each party, in his proper sphere, has an equal capacity for perfection, and which have laid in this life, the foundation of their eternal friendship. How great an influence both these causes must have on their earthly happiness, I leave to yourself to judge; for you best can. In this point of view, you, my excellent friend, must be one of the happiest of men; for was she not, as Cramer justly said, "Klopstock in feminine beauty!" And of this I am certain that your connection is one of those few, whose duration will be eternal, for this cause you were to meet on earth, and possess each other as long as needful to lay the deepest foundation for the tenderest and strongest—for an everlasting friendship. How perfectly have you fulfilled this destiny! But that other views might also be fulfilled, she was to be translated to the world of spirits before her friend. There was to be another soul, sprung from them, on whom the love of both might centre, to augment their happiness. That this also might have its proper perfections, the first embryo alone of its existence was unfolded, and so soon as the tender bud was formed in the maternal bosom, it was transplanted to a happier climate, and tended by its glorified mother and the angels. Without the aptitude to err and sin, this infant angel, who, perhaps, is an image of the united virtues of those from whom he sprung, enters into the society and instruction of the perfect. Free from the mortal covering, he learns to know the Godhead with higher powers, and the universe with purer and finer organs. The tender mother, perhaps, will one day meet you with this darling of her heart. This I confidently hope to hear from you in future, if I be not myself a spectator of the heavenly scene."

We object to dignify this spirit of wild conjecture, with the name of piety. It is the romance of religion.

Meta wrote some letters from the dead to the living, which are here reprinted. Under different assumed characters she expresses herself on a variety of subjects; these letters appear liable to similar objections, which we made to the preface, as being in some places deficient in liberality, and an enlarged spirit of toleration, particularly in the letter to Melissa, on the choice of a husband. These letters probably suggested the thought to him to write letters to her after her decease, which we have already mentioned are defended in the preface, and which may be viewed as the very consummation of the extravagance of religious speculation.

We have extended our critique on this book, further than some of our readers may think necessary, more especially if they have not read the work, but as it has been in pretty extensive circulation in this country, and has attained to a third edition, and as it contains something that is agreeable with much that is of a mixed or doubt-

ful nature, we have entered more at length into the subject. We think a check to the current of popular feeling, may at times be necessary to produce deeper reflection, and prevent the heedlessness attending a want of examination. It is a good maxim that a man should be religious, but not superstitious, and we think the general tendency of this book may lead to the bewildering labyrinths of superstition.

K.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

AFFAIRS between France and Austria, still continue as they were settled by the armistice concluded after the battle of Wagram. Contrary to our expectations, peace has not yet been officially announced: the appearance of a powerful diversion operating in her favour, may have given Austria spirit to resist the hard terms which she had a right to expect, but this diversion terminating with our unfortunate Expedition, the humiliation of that power cannot be much longer delayed.

It is with pain that we advert to this expedition, especially when we contemplate the deplorable state in which it has returned to our shores, and contrast it with the high hopes and exultation with which it sailed to the coast of Holland. Our prediction of its utility has been unhappily verified; not one has been attained of all the original objects, but the capture of Flushing, which was gotten and is still retained by a most ruinous waste of valuable lives. A sickly climate operating on disappointment has induced such a mortality amongst the troops remaining in the island of Walcheren, that if it is not soon totally abandoned, we may expect to hear of the garrison falling an easy prey to the enemy.

In Spain the supreme Junta goes on talking of the exploits of their troops and the patriotism of the country, while their armies are retreating, and two gallant officers whom we have sent to that kingdom on discovery, have been compelled to retreat also, and exposed to imminent peril, for want of finding this boasted patriotism. We are again it is true, amused with hopes of the Cortez being assembled; but, with the true constitutional deliberation of Spaniards, they will allow 100,000 more Frenchmen to get on the western side of the Pyrennees, before half the Representatives of the nation are collected at Seville. The cause of Spain, or rather of that party which has taken up the cause of Ferdinand the vii. may now be considered as desperate; and this may occasion less regret, as the contest has nearly ruined the country and brought incalculable misery on individuals, and from the unfortunate turn it has taken, would not, even if successful, promote the cause of freedom or add to the stock of public or private happiness. From the ominous aspect of the battle of Talavera, we were apprehensive that Lord Wellington would hardly be able to effect his retreat to any place of tolerable security; and we are now better satisfied that he has gotten his army back to Portugal, though with considerable loss and subjected to many deprivations, than if he had advanced triumphantly to Madrid depending upon the noisy patriotism of its inhabitants, and the hollow assistance of Cuesta. He has been inconsiderably censured for advancing so far, and so hastily into Spain, without knowing his ground; ascertaining more accurately the dependence to be placed upon his fellow general, and the so repeatedly promised assistance and supplies of the supreme junta. The late General Moore got his share of obloquy on the same account: and though the two generals have been blamed by different parties their conduct proceeded from the same cause, they seem to have been influenced by the same motives. Both knew the hazardous part they had to perform, and both appear to have put the ministry in full possession of their sentiments: and yet they were allowed, or rather urged and encouraged to advance both by ministers, and the general opinion entertained at home, of the cordiality of Spaniards, in the cause which we had engaged to promote. We trust that this opinion has already, or will soon undergo a change, and that the whole responsibility of dissipating the resources of the country at this critical juncture, and wasting valuable lives, in useless expeditions, may henceforth remain exclusively with those who are employed to direct the national concerns.

We have little to add in regard to America, to what we have stated about that country in a former number; and that little will be comprised in part of a letter, from an intelligent correspondent in New York

to his friend in this town, who has favoured us with a perusal of it. After recapitulating the various distresses of the people arising from the measures they had been compelled to adopt by the belligerents in Europe, he goes on to say:

"If you can conceive a country labouring under such evils, you may imagine the degree of joy and happiness, diffused on the result of Mr. Erskine's negociations in April last, which appeared to have put a period to them: but now the ministerial disavowal of a transaction so important in its consequences, has excited a degree of indignation, *equally amongst all parties*, and has given a shock to the English influence in this continent, that it has not experienced since the peace of 1783.

"Attractive and interesting as are the subjects of falling Austria and oppres ed Spain; they are but remotely so here, compared to this extraordinary and mysterious conduct of the British ministry. I make use of the word *mysterious*, because the most candid, moderate, and pacific amongst us, so term it, with all the documents that have yet appeared before them. Fortunate, perhaps, it is for both countries, that Congress is not, and will not be for several months in session; catching as they certainly would, the prevailing flame, there is no saying what could allay or extinguish it."

It is not with any spirit of exultation, or dislike to any individuals in office, that we repeat month after month, instances of error, disaster and mismanagement in the foreign concerns of the nation, but from a conviction that all these arise from some glaring defect, which allows a conduct to be pursued contrary to the sentiments, and hostile to the interests of a great majority of the country. We would ask if a mere change of ministers could give *security* to the people, for alleviation of their burthens, and a proper direction for their energies and resources? or if others were appointed to-day, would they be more under popular controul than their predecessors, or entitled to any confidence but what was merely *personal*, and depending on the individuals appointed? if not, then it is not altogether to a change of men, we should look for the salvation of the country, nor to a precarious change of measures, depending on any individuals, however much entitled to public confidence, from their private virtues and talents; but to that wholesome control exercised by an independent house of commons, over all public men, which shall compel them according to their abilities, to consult the welfare of the nation, of every individual from whom the emoluments of their office are derived. Such a house of commons, representatives, possessing the people's confidence will not be obtained by a miracle: let the proper means be used, and suitable effects must follow; but should the nation with so many motives to exertion, remain now inactive and supine, they need not expect their affairs to go on more prosperously, and ought never henceforth to complain while with astonishing apathy they refuse to apply the remedy.

BRITISH ISLES.

For this time we comprise what we have to say on our domestic policy under one general head, as applicable alike to the several parts of the empire at home.

Proud in prosperity, uninstructed by adversity, fatuitously credulous in believing every improbability, which flatters their prejudices, and obstinately disbelieving or glossing over whatever tends to give an unwelcome view of our situation, the majority appear to rush rashly and inconsiderately forwards on the crisis of our fate.

Untaught by the valuable and dear-bought information received from Sir John Moore, another army is sent out to Spain, and thousands of lives are sacrificed on the chimerical idea, that our puny cabinet should establish their character for vigour, and be hailed as "the deliverers of Europe." But vigour unaccompanied by prudence and foresight is a dangerous quality, and misdirected energies only waste the strength of a country, and accelerate the crisis of danger.—An expedition is planned to Holland, on a similar delusive scheme; incapability of the commander, and the idle pageantry of Lord Castlereagh and Sir William Curtis, like Philip II,

ostentatiously viewing his Armada, "baptized invincible in vain," form the van, while disease and disappointment follow in the rear of such ill conducted schemes.

It is easy for those who sit quietly at home intent only on the enjoyment of the present moment, indulging in luxury, and fattening on the miseries of their country by their lucrative contracts, their sinecures, their high rated salaries, and the thousand other modes by which the country is drained, to loll at their ease, and talk "of the pomp and circumstance of war." Let us reverse the picture, and behold the distresses of our army, and the sufferings of the unoffending non-military inhabitants of Flushing. Let us divest ourselves of selfish partialities, and in ideal prospect place ourselves, our wives and our children as surrounded with all the horrors of a besieged town, when in addition to the former engines of war the destruction of Congreve's rockets, producing an almost general conflagration is superadded. Such was the state of unoffending and unjustly attacked Copenhagen, and such the situation of suffering Flushing. The time may come when the destructive energies of war may reach our own shores. Are we preparing for such a time, and are we laying up in store, the consolation of having sympathized in the woes of others, and as far as our limited individual influence would extend, borne an undeviating testimony against the unnecessary infliction and spread of the woes of war?

What is likely to result from this attack on Holland, beyond the extention of misery, and an unnecessary and unavailing warfare!

As an atonement for so much mismanagement and suffering, we are told that the Earl of Chatham, and Lord Castlereagh are to secede from the cabinet. So far is well. We know little of the former, and suppose he was only a cypher in the cabinet, and of Lord Castlereagh we know enough to be well pleased at his dismissal. He will not carry into his retirement, the regrets or esteem of the country: But in looking to their probable successors we see no cause for congratulation. A partial or even a total change in the cabinet affords no well grounded hope of a change of system. We have no confidence in either of the two parties at present struggling for office. Both appear enemies to the cause of reform. It is not a change of men, which will much advantage the country, a change of *measures* through the medium of *a radical reform* can alone restore vigour and well grounded confidence to a distressed, agonized and burdened people. In the 10th report of the commissioners of naval revision, in their account of the manner of conducting the affairs of the victualing office, we receive an instructive lesson in the important declaration, "that nothing short of an entire new system in this department is likely to be effectual." We believe this assertion to be true of other departments of the state, and we are confident that these abuses will not be rectified by those who have an interest in their continuance. An energetic demand on the part of the people for a parliamentary reform, can alone secure the removal of the abuses which have been accumulating through successive administrations—Restore purity to the house of Commons, that they may no longer have an interest separate from the people, but become, as they are bound in duty, the watchful guardians of the public purse. Notwithstanding recourse has bee n had to an old trick of policy to divide, and that the Earl of Selkirk, has attempted to throw the apple of discord among reformers, we are decidedly friends to political reform, as affording the only secure basis for economical reform: We wish the people to be aroused from their lethargy, to be sensible of the impolicy of the present disastrous war, and of the waste of national strength, in an improvident and corrupt expenditure.

After the wanton abuse which has been heaped on Bonaparte and the French, for their cruelty and inhumanity, it is consolatory to those who wish to think well of our common nature, to find, from the dispatch of lord Wellington, that the wounded left behind at Talavera, are treated with the greatest humanity by the French. Let us, hereafter, struggle against our worst

passions, and do justice to the virtues of our enemies, and bear to hear them praised when they deserve it. We fervently wish that the Imperial parliament will never again, in a supposed scarcity of bark, pass an act to attempt to deprive the hospitals of the nations with whom we may happen to be at war, of this salutary drug, and for which it is said that our own army in Holland is now suffering, owing to our cruel restriction to allow its exportation into that country; as, on the army chests being exhausted, the chemists' shops in Middleburgh were found destitute of a supply, owing, as they allege, to the monopoly attempted by this country, with the view, as was boasted, of distressing our enemies. By a just retribution, we now are likely to feel the evil consequence of this crooked policy. While war is carried on, we deprecate every measure calculated to encrease its asperities, and gladly embrace this opportunity of mentioning, with deserved approbation, the kindness manifested by the French to our wounded soldiers in Spain. We entirely disapprove of the attempts too often successfully made to embitter the public mind against France, and thus add to the spirit of hostility already too prevalent in the world.

In many places, we are informed, that public dinners, rejoicings, and illuminations, are to take place on the 25th of next month, being the commencement of the fiftieth year since the coronation of the king. We suppose this is intended to be the rallying point of loyalty according to the fashionable definition of the word. The aldermen, and other bloated capitalists, who feel but little of the weight of taxation on their large accumulated masses, may feast, if they please, and shew their loyalty, and eat their turtle at the same time, but why call on the people to rejoice? The present has been a disastrous reign:—are we to rejoice for the separation of America by unwise councils; the abridgement of liberty, or the dreadfully oppressive increase of the national debt, arising from wars which have occupied the half of the last fifty years?

Do the events of the present year call for rejoicing? Are we so well satisfied with the abuses which have been dragged forth into the face of day, in the army department, and with the mismanagement of affairs in Spain and Holland, including the discomfiture of our ally at the battle of Wagram, that we should be called on to demonstrate the effusions of joy? If external demonstrations were of any avail, or if they would tend to alter our state, we conceive that mourning, much more than feasting, should characterize our feelings for the state of our country, and for the widely-extended sufferings which mark the present crisis.

The Common Council of the city of London have also resolved to commemorate this anniversary. Some opposition was made, but the spirit of suppositious loyalty prevailed—a loyalty of which a selfish interest, or an attachment for the sake of enjoying some private emolument, is a chief ingredient. Loyalty is now defined to be an attachment to the person of the monarch; true loyalty consists in an obedience to the laws, and a due regard to the principles, and various component parts of the constitution, of which the preservation of the liberties of the commons, or people, forms as essential a part as the prerogative of the king, or the privileges of the nobles. Sir William Curtis, in his enumeration of the blessings of the present reign, unluckily mentioned the suppression of general warrants. He omitted to state that these warrants had been used by a corrupt administration, and suppressed by the firmness of an upright judge, the late Lord Camden, in opposition to the wishes of the Court.

The names of Chatham and Camden remind us of the contrast between the fathers and sons of these names. The virtues of the older Pitt, and the inflexible patriotism of a Pratt, sacrificing place to honour, entitle them to the grateful applause of posterity—but of their sons, including our late absurdly named heaven-born minister, we may say with the poet,

"Lord! how unlike their worthy sires of old."

But the times are changed, and a cringing to existing circumstances has usurped the place of manly patriotism,

of which, in a great measure, only the recollection, in former and better times, now exists.

The landed and commercial aristocracy may feast, and, being themselves snug, may look round in listless indifference, and say, things are going on very well. The noise of revelry and mirth may be intended to drown the voice of suffering, and lead away from the contemplation of our present state; but amidst the exterior of rejoicings, and the glare of illuminations, many a sorrowful heart will sigh over the miseries of their relatives who fell in Spain and Holland, and feel the pressure of the times abridging one by one their little comforts, and forcing them to lessen their necessary and almost unavoidable expences, through the encreasing weight of taxation and exclaim with an heartfelt sorrow, "Surely these rejoicings cannot be intended to insult our miseries; but in the present situation of affairs, we can see no just cause for such tumultuous effusions of joy." Nor does the pageantry of going to church in the morning, make the intended Jubilee more reconcileable to pure and enlightened sentiment. It is an odd junction of the exterior of the offices of religion in the morning, and of the debauch and dance in the evening. The pulpit is seldom employed to expose the errors of superiors, and impartiality should silence the voice of praise. During the investigation of the shocking enormities dragged forward to public notice in last session, we have not heard of the pulpit exercising its correctorial powers. Will its ministers unawed by fear, and uninfluenced by hope, come forth at the Jubilee, to tell a plain unvarnished tale, or point out our real state without gloss or covering?

Amid so many tragedies we have had the interlude of a duel between George Canning, and Lord Castlereagh. The consolation results that one must now resign his seat in the cabinet, or probably both go out, and in case of either's resigning the country sustains no loss. We have to choose between the petulant prigishness of the one, and the profligate apostacy of the other; but we think the well known trafficker for union votes and parliamentary seats, sinks the lowest in the scale of demerit. Alas! how fallen! POOR HONOUR AND HONESTY!

These times bear peculiarly hard on the middle classes of society. The labouring class, and the lower classes of mechanics have received an increase of wages, and the rich, especially the monied aristocracy, have only a little taken by taxation out of a great heap. But those dependent on fixed incomes, or the earning of a retail or small trade, are peculiarly oppressed by the weight of taxes. It is asserted that 800 persons in one parish in the neighbourhood of London were returned as unable to pay the assessed taxes, whilst from the rigorous orders issued to the tax gatherers, a considerable number of those officers tendered their resignations in preference to enforcing payment from persons whom they considered incapable to pay. Is this a cause for rejoicing, or for returning thanks? It is one of the dismal effects of the wars in which this country has been engaged, and which the majority of the people so thoughtlessly promote by giving their approbation to them.

"We have offended, O my countrymen,
We have offended very grievously,
And have been tyrannous. From east to west,
A groan of accusation pierces heaven.
Secure from actual warfare we have lov'd
To swell the war-whoop, passionate for war!
We, this whole people, have been clamorous,
For war and bloodshed! animating sports
The which we pay for, as a thing to talk of
Spectators, and not combatants! Boys and girls,
And women, that would groan to see a child
Pull off an insect's leg, all read of war,
The best amusement of our morning meal,
And technical in victories and defeats,
And all our dainty terms for fratricide,
We join no feeling and attach no form,
As if the soldier died without a wound."

COLERIDGE.

We greatly fear that this love for war leagued with some of our bad passions is a prevailing error, and is so general among the people, as to form some kind of excuse for gover-

ment for the many wars carried on by them. The people are now called upon by imperious necessity to consider to what a tremendous crisis, our ruinous wars, and enormous expenditures are rapidly conducting us; to pause in the midst of our career before it is too late, and to try to avert the danger, while yet it may be in the power of rulers and people to prevent a general crash. Deep thoughtfulness, and not feasting, or illuminations, or the parade of religion, should characterize the present period!

As among the prominent transactions of the month, we can scarcely avoid mentioning the uproar which has taken place at Covent-garden theatre, for several successive nights, on its reopening, after having been destroyed last year by fire. The contest with the managers, is on account of a demand for an advance in the prices of admission, and for employing a noted Italian singer in preference to English performers. As a resistance to imposition and to the extravagant salary paid to the singer, we might applaud this opposition if we did not perceive a considerable portion of that illiberality against foreigners, for which the English nation is notorious, mixed up in it; and if we did not think that theatrical contests are of quite too trivial importance, and unworthy of engaging public attention in the midst of our present pressing difficulties. It is among the symptoms of a falling empire, when the people neglect the serious consideration of their public affairs, to be engrossed with the concerns of mimic scenery. In the downfall of the Greek empire, in the 6th century, Constantinople and the empire were disturbed by the green and blue factions at the Hippodrome, the place of amusement of that day. Gibbon, recounting the commotions of these rival factions, pointedly remarks, "As long as the party was successful, its deluded followers appeared careless of private distress or public calamity. It was the license, without the freedom of democracy."

We understand, that several objections to the political discussions which appeared in this Magazine, have from time to time been sent for insertion to the editors of the News-papers in this town, but they have declined entering into the controversy. Confiding in the omnipotence of truth over error, as friends to fair discussion, and desirous that the present crisis should be illustrated by the temperate examination of the passing events, in every point of view, we give notice, that we are willing to admit into our pages, remarks controverting the line of politics which we have adopted, provided they are written with decorum and moderation, and of such a length as not to interfere with that portion, which in our miscellaneous arrangement, can be spared to politics.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

Duel between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning.

A Duel was fought on the morning of the 21st September between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning. In consequence of a misunderstanding which has long subsisted between the parties, they met this morning, by appointment, at six o'clock, on Putney Common. Lord Yarmouth was the bearer of the challenge from Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Canning, and also the friend who attended his Lordship to the ground.

Charles Rose Ellis, esq. a West India Merchant, attended as the second of Mr. Canning. On each firing a shot no harm was done; and Lord Castlereagh not acknowledging himself satisfied, the parties proceeded to fire again, without exchanging a word. Lord Castlereagh's second shot passed through Mr. Canning's thigh without coming in contact with the bone, and thus the affair finished. Lord Castlereagh and his friend drove immediately to White's, in St. James's-street, and there breakfasted. Mr. Canning was immediately conveyed home, and did not experience much pain. After his wound was dressed, he wrote a few lines to a relation in the city, to the following effect:—

"After the affair of this morning, you will be anxious to learn how I am, I therefore inform you, that I have received a slight wound in the thigh. My Surgeon informs me, that it will not require more than three weeks' confinement to set me on my legs again.

There are various reports in circulation as to the immediate cause of the duel, but none can be fully relied upon. All that is known is, that the parties have not been on friendly terms for some months. By some it is said, that Mr. Canning was desirous of Lord Chatham's being brought to a Court Martial, and that Lord Castlereagh opposed it."

MR. ELLISTON AND MISS COLSON.

On the morning of September 5th, about two o'clock, Collingbourn, one of the officers of Union Hall, having received information that some persons had been conveyed in a wounded state into a house in Belvidere-place, St. George's-fields, and that the report of two pistols had been heard, immediately went to the house. On demanding admission he was refused, and it was not till he attempted to force open the door that it was opened. The officer proceeded directly up stairs, and in the front room of the upper story he discovered a young gentleman in bed, apparently in great agony, in consequence of a wound which he had received in the side; in the back room on the same floor was a young lady in bed, also in a wounded state. Collingbourn immediately sent for Mr. Wagstaff, a Surgeon, who on examining the wounded persons, said that the gentleman had received a wound on the right side of his body, with a pistol ball, and that the ball had entered just beneath the lower rib; the lady had also received a wound on the side apparently with a pistol shot. It appeared that the gentleman had paid his addresses to the young lady for about three months; they had been out together spending the evening, and returned from the city about twelve o'clock to the house of the father of the gentlemen, in Belvedere-place, in a hackney coach. Just before the coach reached his father's door, he discharged one pistol at his companion and another at himself; fortunately, the young lady's wounds are not considered dangerous; his own are of a more serious nature. Fearing that he had not completed his purpose, he contrived to swallow a quantity of opium soon after he was taken out of the coach. It is supposed that jealousy was the cause of this rash act. Both the parties are under twenty years of age. Goff, another of the police-officers, is with the parties, till further information can be obtained relative to this melancholy transaction.

UNION-HALL.—We have heard that the young gentleman who attempted to shoot himself and a young Lady who was with him, in a hackney-coach, in Belvidere-place, is the son of Mr. Eliston, of Belvidere-place, and the young Lady a Miss Colson, a respectable young woman, whose friends reside in the Borough. Several persons who had some knowledge of the transaction were examined yesterday before the Magistrates of Union-hall.

——Hulston, driver of the hackney-coach, No. 278, stated that he was called off the stand in the Minories on Monday night, about eleven o'clock, by a gentleman and two ladies; he was desired to drive to Crooked lane, where the ladies got out; one of them however returned and again got into the coach with the gentleman, who desired him to drive to Belvidere-place, St. George's-fields;—when he arrived within two or three doors of the house where he was ordered to set them down, he was alarmed by the report of a pistol in the coach, and immediately after by a second, and heard the gentleman exclaim "Oh, can you forgive me in your dying moments?" the lady answerd "Yes, yes, yes;" he stopped his horses, and getting of his box, ran to look for a watchman; on his return he found his coach empty and a person informed him that the lady and gentleman were in the house, and that no harm was done; in searching amongst the straw of his coach, afterwards, he found a pair of pistol-bags.

Mr. John Taylor lives at No. 42, Belvidere-place, was sitting with his family, a little before twelve o'clock, on Monday evening, when he was alarmed by the report of two pistols; he ran out to see what was the matter, when he perceived a coach standing near the door, without any person on the box; he went up to the coach and opened the door, when by the light of a candle he perceived Mr. Elliston and Miss Colson, the latter apparently fainting; he shut too the door again, and going to the horses, drew the coach close up to Mr. Elliston's door; the family were by this time alarmed, and he assisted in getting them out of the coach; Mr. Elliston was begging to be forgiven, saying he had no intention to hurt her; she answered—Yes, yes; she forgave him. Mr. Taylor went for the surgeon, and on his return, on search-

ing the coach, he found a pistol bullet in the back part of the seat, he saw no appearance of blood, but saw the mark of the powder on the woman's dress.

Mr. Wagstaff a surgeon, said he was called on Monday night about twelve o'clock, to go to Mr. Elliston's house to examine two persons who were supposed to be seriously hurt; he went and found Miss Colson sitting on the bed partly undressed; on examining her person, he found she had received a contused wound on the right side, which was very much inflamed and swelled; her cloaths were perforated in several places, and from their appearance, and from the appearance of the wound, he had no doubt it was inflicted with some sort of fire arms. After having dressed her wound, he was desired to attend Mr. Eliston; he found him lying on a bed; he had a wound inflicted by a ball in his right side; the ball had struck upon his ribs just below the breast, and gone off slanting, without having penetrated the abdomen. The wound was very much inflamed and swelled, but the witness did not apprehend any immediate danger; from some expressions which fell from Mr. Eliston, however, the witness was fearful he had taken something of a poisonous nature; and after being repeatedly pressed on the subject, he acknowledged that finding the ball had not taken effect, he had contrived to swallow a quantity of opium. Mr. Wagstaff had questioned Miss Colson respecting the firing of the pistol, she said that Mr. Eliston, had desired her to look out at the window to see if the coachman was not gone past the house; whilst her head was out at the window, she heard the report of the pistol, but did not at first know that she was wounded; nor was she much alarmed, till she heard the second report, and saw the flash in the coach, when she screamed out The witness did not consider either of the parties to be in immediate danger. The pistols were delivered to Mr. Wagstaff on Tuesday morning, by a younger brother of Mr. Elliston.

It is said that a plan is in agitation with some merchants at Liverpool to revive the nefarious slave trade under foreign colours, but that the friends to the abolition fully awake to the interests of humanity are taking measures to prevent the evasion of the law, which so highly to their credit was the last act of the Grenville administration. We have also another instance of the vigilance of the Abolitionists.

A short time ago, Mr. Roscoe, of Liverpool, received an anonymous letter, informing him that six black slaves had been thrown into prison by a Portuguese Captain, upon alleged actions of debt; but in reality because he found that they were free on their arrival in England, and he hoped by this expedient to detain them until his vessel should be ready to sail. Having verified the fact, Mr. Roscoe sent a person to bail all the actions. An order was accordingly issued for the discharge of the prisoners, when it was discovered that the Portuguese Captain had mustered about 100 of his countrymen to seize the blacks by force on their exit from prison. Application was instantly made to the Magistrates, who took the Captain into custody, bound him to his good behaviour, and restored the poor blacks to the enjoyment of their newly acquired liberty.

At the anniversary of the Suffolk Humane Society, the life boat was launched, and every effort to sink her was attempted, but in vain; when she was filled with water she gave additional proof of her stiffness and security. Captain Manby's experiments were repeated, for securing a communication between the shore and a stranded Vessel, with the greatest success. A shot was fired, with the rope attached to it 190 yards. The wind on the side, the shot 24lb. with 8oz. of powder; another of the same weight in the face of the wind 180 yards distance with 10oz. of powder.

The following well authenticated narrative was read before the society:

Dec. 16th, 1808. Edward Ellis and three other men were in a small boat searching for anchors, off Lowestoft. They saw a wreck on the home sand. They immediately rowed to her and found her lying on her side, with the sea breaking over her; nine persons were on the wreck, who had lashed themselves on her side; among these were two women, and a Child about seven months old, who were nearly perished with cold and wet. They were all brought to the shore by the assistance of the boat in which Ellis was, and another which came to their help. But the conduct which merits peculiar attention was that of Ellis. The boat could not go close to the wreck; the persons were therefore obliged to be dragged through the water from the wreck. The child was pulled through the water quite naked. As soon as it was in the boat, though it discovered no symptoms of life, Edward Ellis stripped off his own

flannel waistcoat and a great coat and put them upon the Child, and with this covering carried her to shore. As soon as they were landed James Farrier, Jun. carried the child, apparently dead, to the house of Martha Longstaff, widow, who resides on the beach of Lowestoft. Having heard that warmth and rubbing were the most effectual methods of restoring those who seemed to be drowned, Martha Longstaff immediately stripped herself and placed the child close to her own body, in a warm bed. In three quarters of an hour, the child breathed, and in a short time after was restored to her friends. She is the daughter of William and Anne Stephens of Bridlington, Yorkshire. The Vessel was completely lost.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE, LONDON.

The pit of the new theatre is very spacious, and the two galleries are comparatively small. The lower contains from 800 to 900 persons, the upper from 200 to 250. The upper gallery is divided into five compartments, and may be considered a tier of five boxes, with a separate door at the back to each; these doors open into a spacious lobby, one side of which is the back of the gallery, and the other the exterior wall of the theatre, with the windows into the street. The lobby to the middle gallery beneath is similarly situated. One great advantage attends this construction; in summer, the doors of the galleries, and the lobby windows, being left open, the audience in those parts cannot be oppressed by the heat, as in the former theatre. Under the gallery is a row of private boxes, constituting the third tier.—They consist of 26 in number, with a private room behind each. The access to these boxes is by a beautiful staircase, exclusively appropriated to them, and not connected with any other part of the house, with also a lobby, exclusively, spacious and magnificent in the extreme. The carpetting was laid down in these boxes on Saturday; but the furniture, of each, and also of the adjoining rooms, will be according to the taste of the several occupants, among whom are some of the Royal Dukes, and the leading persons of rank and fashion in the country. The lower boxes appear to be upon the same plan of those in the old house. There is an additional seat; each box will thus hold 12 persons, being three more than in the old house. The grand stair-case, from Bow-street, to the boxes, is most superb, and in extent greatly exceeds that of the opera house.

The front of the stage is surmounted with the royal arms, and the pilian at the sides are plain and elegant.—The fronts of the boxes are painted of a cream colour, with Greek ornaments in gold, upon a pink ground, and gold mouldings. The boxes are supported by gold fluted columns.—There are three rows of seats in each box, with coverings of light blue.—The three circles of boxes are to be lighted by chandeliers, elegantly mounted.

The seats in the pit are each placed a little above the other, so as to raise the eye of each person completely above the head of the person in front of him. Each seat is 25 inches in depth. They are covered with light blue cloth, edged with scarlet.

The entrance hall, from Bow-street, is of stone, 40 feet square, from whence a grand stone stair-case, 18 feet wide, ascends to the boxes. There are stone landings on each side, ornamented by red porphyry columns, with white marble capitals and bases. The walls are white veined marble. Beyond this, an anti-room, is decorated by red porphyry pilasters, with gold capitals and bases. Opposite the entrance of this room, at the farther end, is a statue of Shakspeare, by Rossi, seven feet high, placed on a pedestal of yellow Sienna marble. The corridors, which lead from the anti-room, and surround the boxes, are nine feet wide, and paved with stone.

The saloon adjoining is 60 feet long. It is ornamented by red veined marble pilasters at each side, and paintings in chiara oscuro at each side. Sofas are to be placed in it of scarlet, bordered with black velvet.

The entrance from the piazza is by a double flight of stone steps, lighted by antique lamps, on tripods of bronze.

In the corridors and saloon the prevailing colour is green.

By means of a pipe brought down

to a closet in the anti-room, and communicating with a reservoir at the top of the theatre, a great quantity of water may be obtained in a short time, in the event of fire. In another part of the theatre a pipe is also placed communicating with a reservoir at the bottom of the edifice. The party walls are five feet thick.

There is not a point of the house, before the curtain, that does not command a complete view of the stage; nor a point in which a word, distinctly spoken on the stage, is not perfectly audible to the remotest extremity. The stage is also adapted in a peculiar degree, for the display of scenic procession, having extraordinary depth in the rear, as also large spaces at the sides to an extent greatly exceeding those of the late theatre.

The price of the boxes is raised from 6s. to 7s. british.—the pit from 3s. 6d. to 4s.—galleries are as formerly.

The rise of the prices has occasioned a very determined resistance from the public, who express their disapprobation by such a combination of infernal noises, from tin trumpets, bugle-horns, catcalls, whistles, &c. &c. during the time of performance of the plays, that as yet the actors have only been able to exhibit in dumb show. The Bow-street officers have been brought in to take up some of these noise manufacturers, and having been guilty of more roughness in the business, than was esteemed legal, it is thought they will be punished for *vigour exerted beyond the law*, a privilege luckily as yet confined to a favoured few. In fact the only real riots committed as yet on the occasion have been by these officers and their adherents.

FATAL CATASTROPHE.

"*Raleigh, North Carolina, America.*—"A young man in that county, of the name of Wm. Parker, had for two or three years paid his addresses to a Miss Doily Griffin, and the marriage of the parties was expected; recently, however, Miss G. had discarded him. On the 5th, they, with some other company, dined at Mrs. Harris's, where Parker behaved towards Miss G. with some rudeness. His conduct, and some expressions which fell from him, excited her suspicions that he intended her some serious mischief; and she invited two of her female friends to accompany her home. When they had nearly reached her mother's, Parker came out suddenly from an angle of the fence, and presenting a gun at Miss G. shot her through the arm, and lodged the contents in her side. She fell instantly; and the horses rode by the other young ladies being frightened, they were also thrown. Parker then began very deliberately to reload his gun; the young ladies, bereft by their fears of the power either of flight or resistance, entreated him not to kill them. He told them he had no such intention; that he was then loading for himself, and asked one of them for a corner of her shawl for wadding, which he tore off. When he had finished loading, he placed the muzzle to his breast, and sprung the trigger with his foot; it missed fire; he then pecked the flint, and on the second attempt the load entered his breast; he tottered to the fence, against which he leaned in much agony, and desired the young ladies to pray for him. He then walked towards the dying Miss Griffin, and fell beside her. Both expired in a few minutes. Miss Griffin was a young woman of merit, and the only child of a widowed mother, who heard the cries and firing, and came to the place just in time to see her daughter expire. Parker was notorious for possessing a violent and ungovernable temper."

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

On Wednesday last, a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast was held in the Exchange-Rooms, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best manner of celebrating the 25th of October, in honour of his Majesty's entering into the 50th year of his reign. Mr. May, the sovereign, presided on the occasion; and after some preliminary conversation, it was moved, that the inhabitants

be invited to dine together with the Corporation, at the Donegall Arms; that there be a Ball in the evening, and general illuminations. The latter part of the motion was strongly objected to by several gentlemen, on account of the rioting and mischief which usually take place on occasions of illuminations, and also from the expense, and danger of fire to which it gives rise, and that it would be a more suitable mode of expressing gratitude, were the inhabitants to be requestd to attend divine worship on that day. After some further conversation, it was finally moved, seconded, and unanimously resolved, that the inhabitants, with the corporation, be invited to attend public worship in the parish church, to return thanks to Almighty God for the long-continued life of his Majesty; also, that there be a public dinner at the Donegall arms, a ball in the Exchange-Rooms in the evening, and bonfires and fireworks in the streets. A committee was also chosen for carrying the resolutions into effect.

On the afternoon of Sunday the 24th inst. at Lambeg, a stook of oats was set on fire by the lightening; it instantly blazed up, but was prevented from being consumed by some persons who were present. There was but little thunder, but a heavy shower of hail immediately succeeded.

ARMAGH....*Married*....H. D. Brooke, esq. of Dublin, merchant, to Miss Dobbin, of Armagh.

ANTRIM....*Married*....Mr. T. Read, of this town, to Miss Walkington, of Ballinderry. W. Arthur, esq. to Miss A. Stevenson, daughter of W. Stevenson, esq. of this town. Rev. J. Kelso, to Miss R. Johnston, both of Maragall.

Died....At Colerain, Mr. J. Thompson, surgeon. Near Whiteabbey, Mrs. M'Crea, wife of Mr. J. A. M'Crea. At the Falls, Belfast, Miss Jane Cavert.

MELANCHOLY EVENT.

A few weeks ago, a young lady of high accomplishments and pleasing manners, in the town of Derry, had for a considerable time been strongly attatched to a young gentleman of the same town, with whom she had been imprudent, and had become a mother. Her disgrace was concealed, only a very few confidents knowing it: she still flattered herself with becoming the young man's wife; but finding his affections about to be transferred to another, she took the desperate resolution of taking his life; which she effected by infusing poison in a bowl of milk, which he was in the habit of drinking at or before breakfast. After he had swallowed the milk, he took unwell, but did not die till some days after. From some previous expressions, the young lady was suspected, and when enquired for was missing; in a few days, however, she was discovered, and being permitted to go home to dress, before being committed to gaol, she took a portion of the poison she had kept for herself; and as she was going into the prison gate, a second dose out of a small bottle; this she effected in so hasty a manner, that her guards could not prevent her. She then stubbornly refused all medical assistance, and died a few hours after, a melancholy victim of jealousy and illicit love. It is also rumoured, that poison was attempted to be given to the child, by the father, a few days previous to his death, and that this circumstance determined the resolution of the mother for his destruction; though, strange to relate, she is also reported to have made a similar attempt herself, after having administered the fatal dose to the young gentleman, but to have been turned from her diabolical purpose by the innocent caresses of the infant: the gentleman, it is said, was several years her junior.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From August 20, till September 20.

For more than a month past, the weather has been extremely unfavourable for the business of the husbandman; the heavy and almost continual rains, that have fallen, have exceedingly injured the wheat crops. Mildew and blast are much complained of in every quarter; and we have experienced a most extensive loss by the wheat vegetating in the ear, as it did in 1799; not only when it had lodged and came in contact with the earth; but also when growing perfectly upright. From these circumstances there is great reason to fear that the wheat crops will prove very defective both in quality and quantity.

The oat crops, although rather thin on some of the light soils, will probably average at a fair produce: such as were cut early, or had lodged on the strong grounds, have suffered by the rain.

Barley is complained of in several districts for being thin, particularly on the light gravelly soils, in some other quarters it is considered a good crop.

A greater quantity of hay has been lost by the floods this season, than for many years back; very little of the late crops, even on dry grounds, have been got up in good order.

Great as the necessity was for saving of flaxseed, we are apprehensive it will not be accomplished so effectually and extensively as was expected. Few seasons have proved more unfavourable for the purpose than the present one; the almost continual rains have baffled the exertions of the most active and skilful farmers, and obliged them in many cases to relinquish the common mode of drying it in stooks, and to spread it on the ground to prevent the flax from rotting, although a good deal of the seed was lost by that means.

Many of those who rippled off the bolls, and had not good floors for drying them on, have either lost the seed altogether, or had it so damaged as to be very unfit for sowing.

It is thus that the natural humidity of our climate will frequently throw obstructions in the way of our attempting to render ourselves less dependent on other countries, but these difficulties ought not to discourage the farmer, from persevering in the attempt. It is most certainly an object of great national importance, and if entered into extensively and with spirit, we shall be able to raise so great a redundancy in favourable seasons as will secure us from feeling the disappointment of an adverse one.

It is an easy and pleasant task to put forward all the different branches of agriculture, in a fine dry season; but it requires much skill, patience, and perseverance to carry them on in a season like the present.

Nothing can be more mortifying to the farmer, than when he has collected all his reapers, and promised himself the satisfaction of accomplishing a great day's work, to be beat off by a heavy rain, and obliged to send them home, wet perhaps to the skin, after a few hours work; and it is no less mortifying, to find when the rain is over and a dry day succeeds, that his stooks, which he had set up dry, were tossed by the wind, and so drenched with wet, as to require the sheaves to be opened; this often happens when the greatest care has been taken, but it is more frequently occasioned by the imperfect and slovenly manner in which the stooks are constructed. The writer of this report has for a series of years paid particular attention to this part of the work, and has experienced the best effects from it: the men employed to put up the stooks ought to be careful to set the standard sheaves so as to have a gentle lean or inclination to the centre, that one end of the stook may not overbalance the other. They should then put the cut end of the hood sheaves to their breasts, and with both hands pull up the band or strap as near the head as it will bear; and having opened it completely up to the strap, the two heads ought to be put on at once, and made to meet each other over the corn ends of the standards.—By this means the corn will be completely covered, and the heads of the hood sheaves being short and low, the wind will make a smaller impression on them and be less likely to blow them off, than if they were high.

The crops of turnips in many places, have been much hurt by the wet, especially on heavy or retentive soils; in flat lands, a similar injury has been done to the potatoes, but we hope the crops will be good in general.

Oat-meal has experienced within the last week a considerable advance in price, but as the markets will probably be soon supplied with abundance of new meal, it may be expected to lower again.

The following is an extract of a letter from a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, dated September 4, 1809.

"We have fair crops of wheat, a little mildewed in some places, but by no means general; and that I think not to injure the quality of the grain. Oats are an uncommonly fine crop, and of excellent quality. Barley upon good land, full, and fine. Beans good, peas partially so. Potatoes very great crops; and clover and grass very full as after math."

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In addition to the innumerable military blunders of the present day, we have another instance of imbecility in the state of the commercial negociation with the

United States of North America. As might have been expected, when the non-ratification of the agreement made by the British ambassador, was known to the American executive, the President has withdrawn his former suspension of the non-intercourse act, and we are again left in a state of commercial hostility with that country, and to a renewal of all the inconveniences, which we lately suffered by the interruption of our intercourse with them. This failure in the negociation, at the present juncture, is the more to be regretted, as the Americans, disgusted with the conduct of France, were inclined to draw closer the bonds of friendship with Great Britain, but there is now reason to fear, that the conduct of our cabinet will give a decided preponderance to the interests of France, in the councils of the American government, and that through this system of blundering, the favourable period for reconciliation has been lost, and a closer alliance formed between America and France. American produce has considerably advanced, and the lottery of speculation has again commenced. From the large quantity now on hand, coupled with the stagnation of trade, a very high advance will probably not be permanent.

The sanguine hopes, and the speculations founded on them, that British and Irish manufactures, would find their way to the Continent, through the island of Walcheren, are now likely to end in disappointment. Its possession, either as a military or commercial depôt, is not likely to be of long continuance. Yet we understand large quantities of British manufactures are introduced into the Continent, from the island of Heligoland, and that Scotch muslin, through that channel, makes its way to Paris. In consequence, the cotton trade in Scotland is represented as being at this time very brisk.

It is probable that we may soon obtain some relief in the article of timber. In addition to the vessel from Norway, mentioned in our last report, to have arrived at Belfast, others have arrived at different ports, and more are shortly expected. It is said that the Danish government, conceding to the necessities of the Norwegians, who were greatly distressed by the want of provisions, have relaxed in the severity of their restrictions on trade, and permitted an intercourse under neutral colours, for the space of three months.

From the injury sustained by the harvest, by the wet weather, both in Great Britain and Ireland, and from the probability that no importations from America or the continent of Europe can be depended on, it is likely that the restriction on distillation from grain will be continued. It appears a necessary precaution, and is only holding an even balance between the growers and consumers of grain. A few interested speculating merchants may complain, but the price of grain during last year, fully justified the propriety of the restriction, and afforded sufficient profit to the farmer, and there is no ground to suppose that prices will be lower during the ensuing year.

We understand that some obstacles to the purchase of the Lagan canal, yet remain to be removed, and till their removal no plan will be likely to be matured for remedying the inconveniences of the present line, either by improvements on it, or by an entire new cut. As it stands at present, this canal is of very little use to the country.

We subjoin, for the information of our readers, an account of the completion of the Crinan canal, in Scotland, with the present rate of tolls, for vessels passing through it, so as to avoid the danger of going round the Mull of Cantyre, viz:

"Crinan Canal, in Argyleshire.—It is long since the dangers and difficulties attending the navigation round the peninsula, or Mull of Cantyre, suggested the importance of a canal within that peninsula, by which these perils might be avoided, and in 1792 a Subscription was opened for that purpose. The canal is now finished from Loch-Crinan to Loch-Gilp. The vessels which have already passed, have acknowledged the great facility and safety of their passage, which advantages are open to all vessels employed on the western coast of Scotland, western coast of England, and eastern and northern coasts of Ireland, besides affording them immediate shelter from a stormy sea, and an opportunity to be laid dry to repair any damage received. The length of the canal from sea to sea is nine miles. The present depth of water is eleven feet. The locks are ninety-six feet long, and twenty-four feet wide, in the clear.

"The present tolls are:—One penny halfpenny per ton, per mile on coals, salt, outward-bound, and all sorts of manure.—Two-pence per ton, per mile, on all other goods.—One shilling per mile, on each open boat, not exceeding seven tons burden.—One penny, per ton, per mile, on all light vessels and boats, which is discounted from the tolls on the cargo brought back.—One penny per ton on all goods landed, or put into other vessels.—Two-pence per ton on all vessels entering the harbours or basons, without unloading, or passing upon, or through the canal."

The depreciation of bank-paper, is now, by the concurrence of circumstances, forcing itself on the observation of the mercantile part of the public, in England, notwithstanding their present unwillingness to be undeceived, or to admit the disagreeable deductions, arising from uncontrovertable facts.

Gold bullion, about the period of the restriction on the bank, not to pay in specie, in 1797, was 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per ounce. It soon rose to 4*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* and is now at 4*l.* 13*s.* or an advance of 20 per cent. or in other words, gold in competition with the present circulating medium of paper is increased about one-fifth in value. This depreciation of paper becomes conspicuous, from the present state of the exchange with the continent, and is in great measure occasioned by the extravagant issue of bank-notes, owing to the restriction act, exonerating the bank from the obligation to pay their notes in specie; for if guineas were in general circulation, exchange on the Continent with Great Britain, could never rise much more above par, than a little above the cost of freight and risque, in sending guineas to the Continent, whereas a British guinea is now worth, in Hamburgh, 1*l.* 5*s.* and exchange is at the rate of 20 per cent. against London.

The issues of the Bank of England in twelve years, rose from eleven to sixteen millions, but, to hide this rise, for a short time previous to making up their annual account, to lay before parliament, it is asserted that they diminish their discounts in the proportion of 1 to 4, and immediately extend their issues, when the account is made up.

This evil is in progressive train, and may probably at no distant day, sap the highly vaunted commercial prosperity of Great Britain, and from the intimate connection between government and the bank, endanger the safety of the country. However lavish the issues of the bank of England have been, those of the bank of Ireland have more than kept pace with them, considering the comparative extent of the trade of the two countries.

There is a prejudice existing in England, against trafficking in guineas, as we have done in Ireland, by buying and selling them, but if guineas were exclusively required in one district of England, they would certainly bear a premium, and the repugnance to this trade be speedily overcome. As matters are now circumstanced, the covert trade now carried on by Jews and others, may soon probably become an open and avowed traffic there, as it has long been in this country.

The rate of exchange in Belfast has been nearly stationary during the fore part of this month, viz. 7¼ to 7½ for guineas, and 9½ for notes, latterly it is rather declining. The discount on bank notes has been about 2 per cent. In Dublin exchange has also varied very little, rating at 9¼ to 9½ per cent, but is now also looking down.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from August 20, till September 20.

Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy
Cynanche tonsillaris,	2	Quinsey
Rheumatismus,	3	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodepia,	2	Chronic do.
Variola,	8	Small pox.
Rubeola,	6	Measles.
Scarlatina,	2	Scarlet fever.
Hæmoptysis,	1	Spitting of blood.
Phthysis,	2	Consumption.

Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Pertussis,	1	Hooping cough.
Hysteria,	2	Hysterics.
Abortus,	2	Abortion.
Amaurosis	4	Palsy of the nerves of vision.
Amblyopia,	2	incomplete or partial do.
Scrophula,	7	Evil.
Psora,	4	Itch.
Herpes,	4	Ringworm or tetter.
Syphilis, *Gonorrhœa*,	9	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	24	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From August 20, till September 20.

The garlands fade that spring so lately wove,
Each simple flower which she had nursed in dew,
Anemonies that spangled every grove,
The primrose wan, and harebell, mildly blue,
No more shall violets linger in the dell,
Or purple orchis variegate the plain,
'Till Spring again shall call forth every bell,
And dress with humid hands her wreath again.

SMITH, SONNET II.

It has often been remarked by the cultivators of plants, that many of them experience in their native climates, a much greater degree of cold than destroys them in Ireland; this has been particularly remarked of the natives of North America, and might appear very extraordinary, did we not know that the cause is, their not enjoying that portion of heat necessary to force their vegetating powers to complete the shoots, and form their hybernacule, or those scaly buds, in which the shoots of the ensuing season are protected from cold.

The present season from the uncommon portion of moisture, being very unfavourable to the early hardening of the shoots, and the formation of these buds, will call upon cultivators to be peculiarly attentive to house their tender exotics in time, and prepare shelter as occasion may require for those which they trust in the open ground, but notwithstanding that it is necessary to be attentive to the approach of frost, it is best not to be too hasty in housing, as all green-house plants should be as short a time under cover as possible, and have a large portion of air admitted when there is not frost. It is said the Chinese who are great forcing gardiners, and cultivators of curious plants, keep a pan of water along with their plants, and never think it necessary to guard against cold, until the water begins to freeze; this is a poor substitute for our thermometer, but the idea which dictated the practice, is nevertheless just, for although the vegetation of many may be checked, no plant is injured by cold, until it comes to the freezing point; and from numerous observations it is time enough to house green-house plants, when the leaves of the Common Ash, become yellow, as no frost need be apprehended of any importance before this appearance takes place.

August 21, Purple Virgins bower (Clematis Viticella) Corymbose Starwort (Aster corymbosa) and variegated Monkshood (Aconitum variegatum) flowering.

22, Proliferous st. Johnswort (Hypericum prolificum) flowering.

26, Superb Lily (Lilium superbum) flowering.

29, Tall St. Johnswort (Hypericum elatum) and Goats smelling (Hypericum hyrcinum) flowering.

September, 5, Robin (Sylvia Rubecula) begun to sing his autumnal song;—which although very pleasing, seems to be less sprightly and attractive than its vernal song.

Meadow Saffron (Colchicum autumnale) flowering.

8, Tallest Golden Rod (Solidago altissima) and Red Chelone (Chelone obliqua) flowering.

9, Common Clethra (Clethra alnifolia) flowering. Willow Wren, Martins, and many Swallows gone.

12, A Bat, apparently the long eared (Vespertilio auritus) seen flying about in Belfast at 11 A.M. though it was bright sunshine.

13, European Sow Bread (Cyclamen Europæum) flowering.

24, Wood lark (Alauda arborea) begun to sing. This bird although next in mellowness and plaintive notes to the nightingale, is but little known, and wantonly destroyed by country boys during snow; it is much more local than the Sky Lark, being confined to districts abounding in gently rising hills, which it enlivens with its song for nearly eight months, and even by moonlight.

15, Saw about 30 Bernacle (Anas Berniela) on Belfast Lough.

18, Double flowering meadow Saffron, flowering.

19, Swallows gathering in flocks on house tops, a sure sign that they are preparing for their departure.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT,

From August 20, till September 20.

SELDOM has Ireland received from the passing clouds a greater portion of moisture without intermission, and without a breeze to dry or evaporate the water, a continual succession of showers has produced a dampness in the atmosphere, very unusual at this season. On the Evening of the 5th September, at about 9 P.M. a very unusual Meteor made its appearance to the Northward, it first attracted notice by the diffusion of a considerable light; it seemed elevated about 40° above the horizon, the nucleus appeared not more than 3 or 4 inches diameter, with a tail parallel to the horizon, pointing eastward, of apparently 20 feet, the most extraordinary particular and in which it differed from others, was its remaining stationary until the tail became shorter by degrees, and in about 5 minutes the whole disappeared.

August	21, 24, ...	Showery.
	25, ...	Dry.
	26, 29, ...	Showery.
	30, ...	Dry.
	31, ...	Wet evening.
Septem.	1, ...	Dry.
	2, 5, ...	Showery.
	6, ...	Dry.
	7, 11, ...	Showery.
	12, ...	Dry.
	13, 15, ...	Showery.
	16, ...	Dry.
	17, 20, ...	Showery.

From the 20th of August to the 14th of September, the Barometer was nearly stationary about 29, on the 15th it rose to 30,1, where it remained on the 17th, the rest of the time it remained at the first station.

The morning heat was on the 8th of September as high as 62½, the lowest was on the 19th of September, when it was 51.

The midday height was on the 29th of August 70°, the lowest 55°, on the 18th of September.

The wind has varied but very little from the Southward, being observed 15 times S.W. 4 times S.E. 5 times N.E. 4 times N.W.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR OCTOBER, 1809.

THE Moon rises on the 1st of the month, at 4 min. past 11, P.M. under a Line between the third and sixth stars of the Twins; as she mounts the heavens, the two first stars of the Twins are on one side, and Orion on the other side of her, will arrest attention.

5, She rises at 17 min. past 2, A.M. and soon after is followed by the first star of the Lion and Venus; this groupe will appear beautiful during the remaining part of the morning.

10, She passes the meridian at 25 min. past 1, P.M. and sets 16 min. past 6, and will of course be invisible.

15, She passes the meridian at 17 minutes past 6, P.M. at which time the two first

stars of the Goat are near, but to the west of her, as she had passed them, in the afternoon: at nine she is 60°. 58′. from the first of Pegasus. She sets at 33 min. past 10.

20, She rises at half past four, P M. and passes the meridian at 32 min. past 10, having above her the four stars in the square, the two eastern being to the east of, but near the meridian. She appears, directing her course towards Aldebaran, from which she is distant at nine o'clock, 69°, 55′. and at the same time she is 61°. 33′. from the first star of the Eagle: she sets at half past four the following morning.

25, She rises 40 min. past 6, P.M. under the Pleiades, and is soon followed by Aldebaran; she is evidently directing her course, so as to cover some of the Hyades; at nine she is 51° 31′ from Pollux, and 87° 42′ from Fomalhaut.

30, She rises at 59 min. past 10, P.M. under the two first stars of the twins; at nine she is 52° 4′ from Aldebaran.

Mercury is an evening star during the whole of this month, having arrived at his greatest elongation on the 9th being then under the first of the Balance, but he is so near the horizon at Sun-set that he will be seen by very few. The Moon passes him on the 11th.

Venus is morning star, shining with great splendor during the whole of the month, she passes through the constellation of the Lion, and part of the Virgin, her course is direct through about 37°. The moon passes her on the 6th.

Mars is an evening Star, his motion is direct through 22°, on the 1st he is east of Antares and forms with him an object worthy of attention; the difference in the colours of the Star and Planet as well as their brightness will be remarked. The Moon passes him on the 15th.

Jupiter passes our meridian on the first at 14 min. past 1, A. M. and on the 19th, at 59 min. past 11, he is in a favourable position to be observed during the greater part of each night and morning. His motion is retrograde through 4 deg. The moon passes him on the 22d.

Saturn is an evening Star being on the meridian on the 1st at 47 min. past 3. and on the 25th at 27 min past 2, P. M. his motion is direct. The groupe formed by Saturn, Mars and the two first Stars of the Scorpion, will embellish the heavens in the evening towards the south west.

Herschell sets so soon after the Sun that he will be seldom seen this month. The Moon passes him on the 10th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Immersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Immersions.*				3d SATELLITE.							
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	13	37	43	1	3	15	45	7	4	8	4	Im.				
4	8	6	23	4	16	34	42	7	6	26	6	E.				
6	2	35	0	8	5	53	5	14	8	9	54	Im.				
7	21	3	41	11	19	11	58	14	10	27	0	E.				
9	15	32	19		*Emersions.*			21	12	12	30	Im.	* *First Satellite Continued.*			
11	10	1	2	15	10	31	7	21	14	28	48	E.	20	8	33	12
	Emersions.			19	0	9	45	28	16	14	30	Im.	22	3	1	58
13	6	38	27	22	13	27	59	28	18	29	51	E.	23	21	30	41
15	1	7	5	26	2	46	35						25	15	59	27
16	19	35	45	29	16	4	50						27	10	28	12
18	14	4	31										29	4	57	0
													30	23	25	45

Look to the right hand.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

If A. Z's letter, dated Dungannon, with the postmark of Stewartstown, had been written in a decent manner, we should have inserted it. He blames us for the account of camp meetings in America, and the miracle detected; and concludes with a threat, if we decline to insert his letter, to publish it in another way. To the execution of this threat, we have not the smallest objection; and trust we shall be able to defend ourselves. If Mr. C. will favour us with the conclusion of the tale of Lady Montacute the whole shall be inserted. Oxigens verses and several favours from other correspondents are under consideration.

ERRATA.

No. 18, page 91, first column, last line, insert the word *verdure* after rich. In the present No. p. 171, 2d col. l. 17, from the top, for *danger* read *dangers*; p. 172, 1st col. l. 11, for *Pinkard* read *Pinchard*.